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11.3.92

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
NON GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (NY)

March 11, 1992

Mr. Tebogo Mafole, Chief Representative
THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
Observer Mission to the United Nations
801 Second Avenue, suite 605
New York NY 10017

Dear Friend,

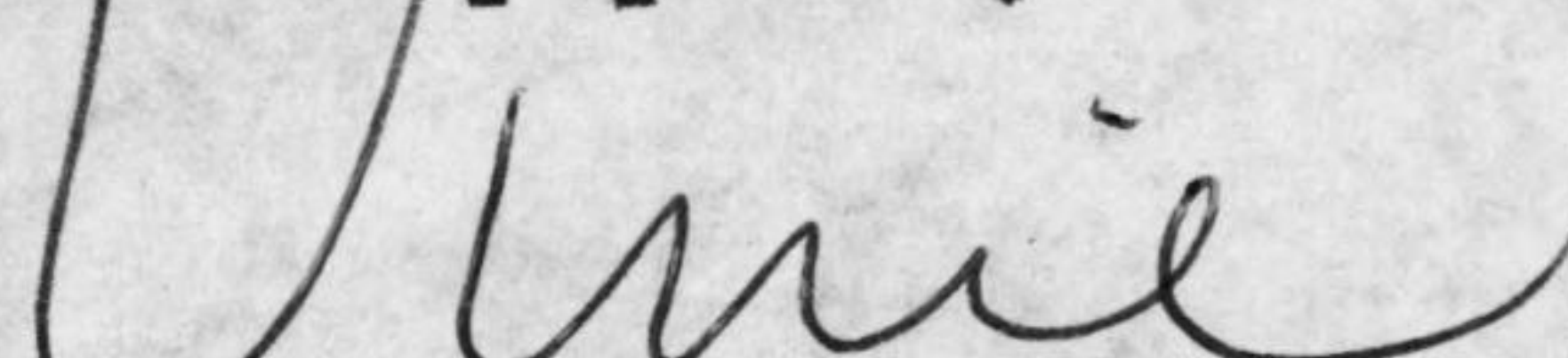
I know that your duties have taken you back and forth from the States to South Africa. These our momentous times in the history of your country and the long struggle of the African National Congress.

However, I have learned from your New York deputies that you have responded favorably to our request to be a discussant on May 21, 1992 at our Third Annual Public Event which will be a round-table focussing on "South Africa- The Challenges Ahead". The Dag Hammarskjold Library is our venue from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. The enclosed CONGO might be helpful in briefing you on the Sub Committee's activities and our focus for 21 May.

I also hope that you or a representative will be able to attend our 17 March Open Meeting and make a contribution to the discussion. We have invited the representative from the P.A.C. In addition, there will be many NGOs currently attending some of the UNCED meetings.

I shall phone or drop by your office before the 17th. If however, you want to contact me, feel free to phone (212) 677-4667 and leave a message if I am not in.

Sincerely yours,


VINIE BURROWS

Chair Vinie Burrows Women's International Democratic Federation Secretary: Fred
Gaboury World Federation of Trade Unions Treasurer: Lenore Fine Grey Panthers Vice
Chair: G. Winfred Kagwa International Federation of Social Workers

**SUB COMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (NY)**

March 3, 1992

M E M O R A N D U M:

TO: Rosalind Harris, Chair, C.O.N.G.O.
FROM: Vinie Burrows, Chair, SubCommittee on Southern Africa
RE: Program of work 1992 through 1993.

The SubCommittee which was reconvened in 1989 (see attached Statement of Purpose) intends to continue its information and advocacy work both within and outside the United Nations community. While our primary intent is to keep abreast of current developments within the southern African region particularly and Africa generally, we shall step up our activities with regard to the gathering of intelligence and news which can support our actions in support of the United Nations landmark Declaration on South Africa adopted by consensus at the 16th Special Session on Apartheid and Its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, New York 14 December 1989.

Our meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 777 UN Plaza from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. Present officers elected this season are: Chair, Vinie Burrows, Womens International Democratic Federation; First Vice President, G. Winifred Kagwa, International Federation of Social Workers; Secretary, Fred Gaboury, World Federation of Trade Unions; Treasurer, Leonore Fine, Grey Panthers.

We work closely with the Centre Against Apartheid, the Centre on Transnational Corporations, the Africa and Asia Data Unit of the Secretary General's Office for Research and the Collection of Information. We have been able to use the good offices of many NGO's who have made recent visits to South Africa. We have thus been able to establish contacts with human rights organizations, religious organizations, labor organizations, women and youth organizations and artist and sports personalities in South Africa itself. Our SubCommittee benefits greatly from these briefings which give us substantive information in addition to eyewitness accounts of conditions from a personal viewpoint. We continue our contacts with the Organization of African Unity and have established cooperative relations with the missions of Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Botswana to the United Nations. We are known to the liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and they keep us informed of their activities here and in South Africa. National and international anti apartheid groups keep us informed of their campaigns in order to elicit the support of our various members. Although our core membership is steadily increasing, we still are disappointed that many of the NGO community here at headquarters are not sufficiently seized with the moral and ethical implications of apartheid.

January 22, 1992 - Dr Evelyn Mauss briefing on a Fall 1992 visit to South Africa as a guest of the African Medical and Dental Association.

February 18, 1992 - Comprehensive scholarly report on present conditions of children and youth in South Africa with respect to education, health, criminal justice system presented by Carmen Alves of SISTERS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID, an active church related U.S. womens group emphasizing material aid for the Black women of southern Africa.

March 17, 1992 - Open meeting in observance of the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Sharpeville Commemoration). The resurgence and political power of racist movements in Belgium, France, Austria and outbreaks in the former socialist countries against immigrant workers are alarming indications of the virulence of racial prejudice which is not only confined to South Africa apartheid. Guest Speakers will be Rev Dwayne Eppps, of the World Council of Churches Commission on International Affairs and Senator David Paterson of the New York State Legislature and author of a bill on bias-related crimes.

April 21, 1992 - A substantive briefing from a member of the Angolan Mission to the United Nations on the status of UNAVEM and conditions in that front line country with an overview of historical forces, present conditions and future prospects for peace.

May 21, 1992 - Our Annual Public Event on the third Thursday will be a round table discussion: **SOUTH AFRICA: THE CHALLENGES AHEAD.** We are asking our panelists to present their views on a number of issues:

POLITICAL: sanctions, CODESA, Constituent Assembly
ECONOMIC: managing the South African economy in order to better the living standards of the Black majority.
SOCIAL: overcoming the legacy of apartheid in education, health care with special emphasis on the status and condition of women and children.

June 16, 1992 - Our meeting will take place on the same day as the United Nations observance of Soweto Day and we shall attend en masse and deliver a Statement to the Special Committee on behalf of those organizations who wish to sign on. We are inviting a number of youth from the Southern African region to meet with us formally to present their views and aspirations.

Present plans call for us to devote meetings during the 1992-1993 season to NAMIBIA, the front line states, the progress towards the Constituent Assembly, the role of regional organizations such as SACU (The Southern African Customs Union), SADCC (Southern African Development Coordination Conference), ECA (Economic Commission for Africa), OAU (Organization of African Unity) PTA (Preferential "Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa), the role of women's organizations throughout southern Africa and what barriers exist to their full integration of women into the political and development process of southern Africa.

We also envision joint meetings with other CONGO committees which has been our dream for two seasons but we still not been able to implement this ambition.

In summary, we intend to carry through with our initial purposes as set forth in our Statement of Purpose adopted on February 22, 1989, namely to

"...encourage NGOs to make oral interventions or submit written statements before relevant committees of the General Assembly or subsidiary bodies that deal with apartheid and the problems of Southern Africa and,

disseminate information about events both in and outside South Africa and,

assist the liberation movements in southern Africa recognized by the United Nations and give help particularly to children, women, political prisoners and trade unionists who have been especially affected by the oppressive policies of the racist regime.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
NON GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (NY)

March 11, 1992

Dr. S.E.M. Pheko, Chief Representative
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania
Observer Mission to the United Nations
211 East 43rd Street, suites 506-507
New York N Y 10017

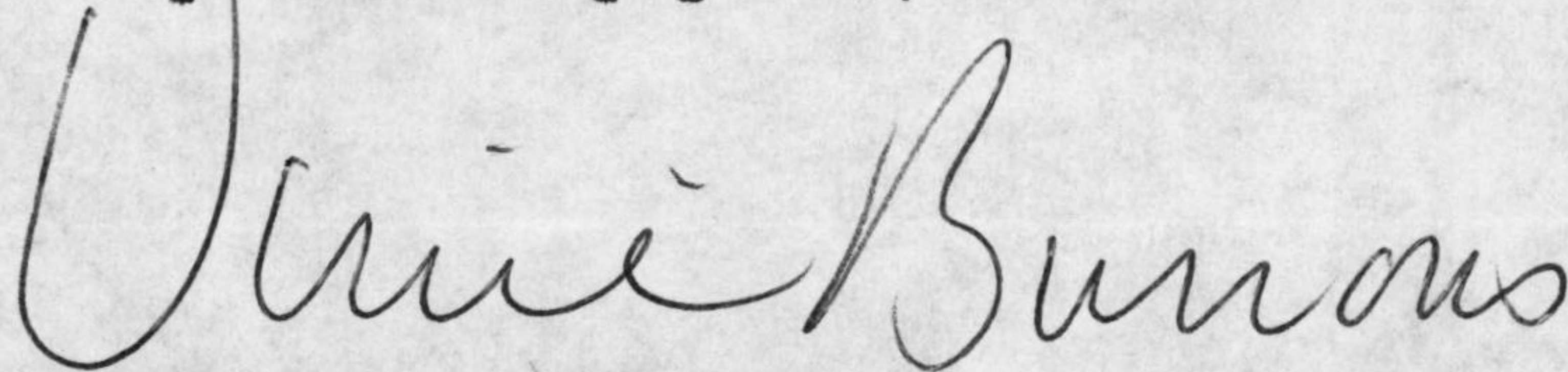
Dear Dr. Pheko:

I trust you will find the enclosed background on the SubCommittee useful.

We are awaiting your response to our letter of 2 March inviting you to be a discussant on 21 May at a round-table seminar on "South Africa- The Challenges Ahead". We would like to start our advance promotion as soon as possible.

You can reach me directly at at (212) 677-4667. In any event, we hope that you or a designated representative will attend our upcoming meeting on 17 March.

Very sincerely yours,



VINIE BURROWS

Chair Vinie Burrows Women's International Democratic Federation Secretary: Fred
Gaboury World Federation of Trade Unions Treasurer: Lenore Fine Grey Panthers Vice
Chair: G. Winfred Kagwa International Federation of Social Workers