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WESTDALE UNITED CHURCH
99 NORTH OVAL
HAMILTON, ONTARIO L8S 3Z2

TELEPHONE: 528-4215

March 9, 1987

Principal Douglas Jay
Emmanuel College, Victoria University
73 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1K7

✓ Chief Representative Yusuf Saloojee
African National Congress
Box 302, Adelaide Postal Station
Toronto, Ontario M5C 2J4

Dear Sirs:

Re: Panel at Hamilton Presbytery
United Church of Canada
Tuesday, May 5, 1987

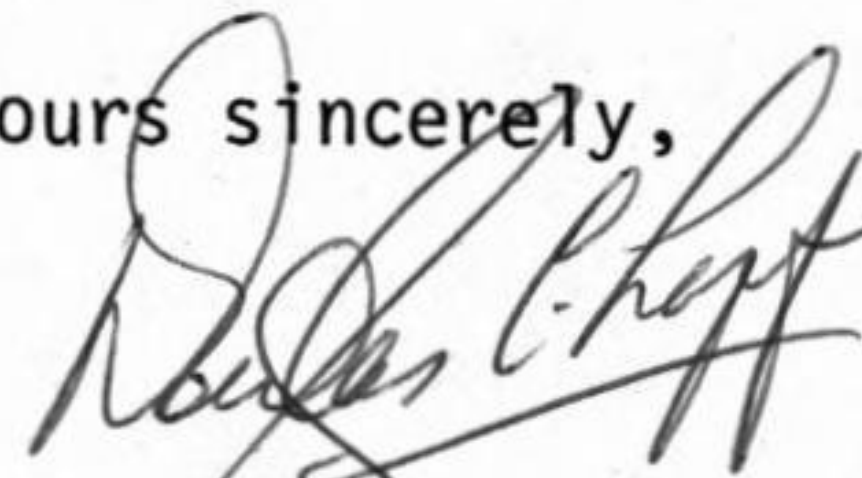
I am pleased that you are both able to share in the panel noted above. I understand that it may be possible that an Emmanuel post-graduate student from South Africa will also be able to participate.

The panel is an "order of the day" item on the regular agenda of the Hamilton Presbytery. We have been allotted one hour, commencing at 8:15 p.m. The general theme is "Issues and Options in South Africa." The purpose of the panel is to educate and sensitize the members of this Presbytery concerning the issues in South Africa. I enclose information relevant to our study of this issue.

Presbytery will take place in St. Paul's United Church
29 Park Street West, Dundas
commencing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 1987. I will be in touch with you at a date closer to the event to ensure that you know your way to Dundas, which is a suburban town adjacent to Hamilton.

This event has already been announced at Presbytery, and is looked forward to by the Presbyters with keen anticipation.

Yours sincerely,



Rev. Dr. Douglas C. Lapp
Chairperson
World Outreach and
International Affairs Committee
Hamilton Presbytery

DCL:a

c.c. Mrs. Marjorie Merritt, Chairperson
c.c. Rev. J. E. McCrea, Secretary
c.c. Mr. E. W. McMeekin, Mission & Stewardship Officer,
Hamilton Conference
c.c. Rev. James Kirkwood, Africa Desk,
United Church of Canada

REPORT OF THE WORLD MISSION COMMITTEE
HAMILTON PRESBYTERY

Our committee deals regularly with a variety of concerns which are before the church whether they be related to the world outreach of the church as such, or whether they be related to international affairs. We do not attempt to bring every concern before Presbytery.

At our September and October meetings, however, our anxiety concerning the situation in South Africa dominated our discussions. The letter of our Executive Secretary, Bruce MacDougall, dated October 3, 1985, on behalf of the Executive of Hamilton Conference, asked members and congregations to respond to the plight of political prisoners in South African jails. Other jurisdictions of our church have also spoken and acted concerning this matter.

The United Church acts regarding South Africa through the African Coalition composed of Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Anglican, Mennonite and Lutheran Churches. The position the African Coalition has put forward includes four points:

- A call for sanctions
- A call for a national convention regarding South Africa's future
- A call for the end of emergency measures
- A call for release of political prisoners

Our committee was concerned that our church be seen to be on the side of reconciliation of the side of reconciliation of the parties involved in this conflict, and that every avenue be used to promote this concern.

The committee went further to affirm the need for this approach in all situations where the United Church is called upon to address conflict situations.

The committee therefore recommends to the Presbytery that

We urge the Division of World Outreach to pursue a policy towards South Africa based on the Principle of Reconciliation, and that in pursuit of this goal they enter into active dialogue with Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in South Africa.

We urge that the Principle of Reconciliation be followed in the development of Division policy regarding other Third World situations.

Douglas C. Lapp

November 5, 1985

WORLD OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
HAMILTON PRESBYTERY

Progress Report re "South Africa Resolution" (Minutes p. 896)

1. The Presbytery referred the Resolution on South Africa back to the Committee at the meeting of November 5, 1985. Since that time the Committee has dealt at length with this matter at regular meetings on January 22, February 19 and March 15, 1986, and at special meetings as follows:
 - December 10, 1985 - Four-hour study session in response to Presbytery debate.
 - February 18, 1986 - Evening consultation with G. Legge (D.W.O.) and J. Kirkwood (Africa Desk D.W.O.).
 - April 15, 1986 - Consultation with Howard Brox (D.M.C.) regarding his 1985 visit to South Africa.
 - May 14, 1986 - Consultation with Rev. Charles Plaskett of the Confederation of Church and Business People regarding his 1985 visit to South Africa.
2. Though the official position of the United Church and the interdenominational Africa Coalition (see Minutes p. 896) has been set, and is acknowledged, the Committee, with the encouragement of our national officers, has searched for ways to take initiatives which would forward the intent of our resolution, namely, to find ways to express the principle of reconciliation in the midst of mounting conflict. There has been a tension of approach in our Committee between those who feel that there can be no reconciliation prior to the total dismantling of apartheid and those who feel that reconciliation is a means of peaceful dismantling of apartheid.
3. The Committee is agreed upon
 - Its abhorrence of apartheid.
 - Its affirmation of the reforms which have taken place very recently, especially the retraction of the Pass Laws.
 - The need for continued dialogue amongst all races and all parties in South Africa (Government, A.N.C., Labour, Church), and in Canada amongst those with varying points of view concerning South Africa.
 - The conviction that pressure for total dismantling of apartheid must be maintained within and outside South Africa.
4. The Committee is exploring possible means of expressing the principle of reconciliation in the midst of conflict, among which are:
 - A possible link between our Presbytery and a District of the Methodist Church of South Africa for the purpose of increasing understanding and direct sharing.
 - A possible exchange between a minister of our Presbytery and a Methodist minister in South Africa.
 - A possible support of the "Pretoria Koinonia Project" which seeks to promote reconciliation amongst church families in the four racial groups (whites, blacks, Indian, "coloureds").
5. The Committee affirms and commends
 - The call of our Moderator for "Prayers and Pressure" of April 1986.
 - The current special South African Project of Amnesty International in the matter of Human Rights violations.