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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Messrs P. Pike, S. Hughes
A. Burt & A. Cordle
Members of Parliament
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

23 August 1991.

Dear Sirs,

I hasten to reply to your letter of 24 July to Mr. Walter Sisulu because it only came on to my desk late yesterday. The address was incomplete so I presume it sat in the post office before someone sorted it out.

Mr. Sisulu returned last night from a mission to Australia and will only return to the office on Monday. As he is likely to be very busy in the next two weeks before taking off once more for the USA and Canada, it may not be possible for him to respond for some time, and I wanted you to know that it would not be because of neglect on his part.

It is very possible that he may stop over briefly in London on his outward or return journey to the American Continent, if so I feel sure he will let you know.

In the meantime, on his behalf, I thank you for your letter and good wishes to him.

Yours sincerely

Rica Hodgson

Rica Hodgson
Secretary.



Recd 22/8/91
Rt

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th July 1991

Dear Canvassers

By this time next week - and by the time you receive this letter - the UK Parliament will have gone into its summer recess. We are taking this last meeting of ours before the long break to remember you once again and in particular to remember you by writing to assure you of our prayerful support for your country and for you personally at this special and important stage in South Africa's development.

Except when one or more of us is out of London - which is the exception rather than the rule. We continue to meet every Wednesday evening at 22.15 to think of you, talk about you, exchange news from South Africa and of South Africa and to debate and reflect on events as they are unfolding. Together with other more personal concerns and experiences we have a time of sharing and often study, and normally also a time of prayer. When people are passing through they join us - as some of you know! Our fellowship in Christ and our common love of South Africa are what unite us together.

Like you, we do not know when we as politicians will next be out to the electoral test. We are now within the last year of the permitted life of this Parliament. This does not mean to say that even Alistair knows the date of the next General Election. It is just possible that it could be called before Parliament returns and therefore that in this Parliament we shall not meet again. Of course we are all hopeful that we shall be resoundingly re-elected and gather here again after the election, whenever it comes.

From our 6,000 mile away advantage point, and as we watch events in South Africa unfold, we are both encouraged and concerned at your news. Reports of continuing violence leave us very worried. Yet we know how much effort is being put into trying to find solutions and we pray for the success of all those initiatives which seek to do this. The very recent events to do with Government funding of Inkhata seem to us just a revelation of how urgent people may be feeling to protect their own positions. There is clearly however continuing progress towards change. The ANC meeting and its selections and the Government's more recent repeal of the last remaining legislation - other than that of course affecting the nature of South African democracy itself - are pointing the way to the new South Africa. When we reflect on the state of things as they were when we first visited you only 5 years ago, one cannot help but be encouraged. Many of you are actively involved in this process at one level or another. We just pray that you will be encouraged and that Christ's work for the reconciliation of his people in the new South Africa will go ahead with undiminished enthusiasm.

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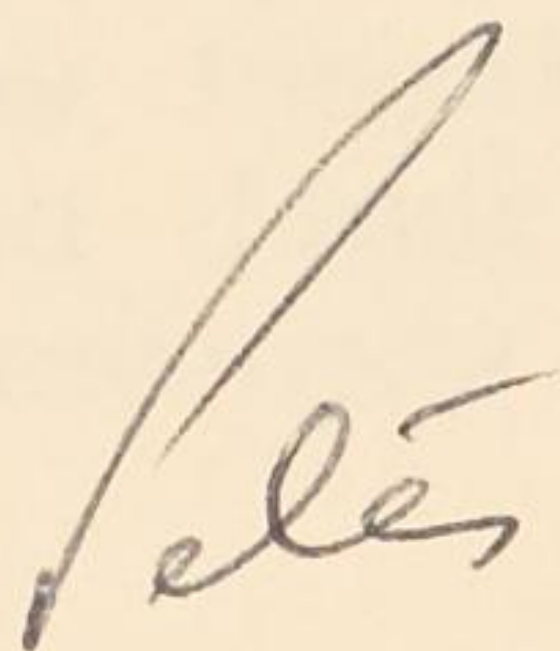
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON W1A 0AA

All our thoughts and prayers and discussions take place of course with Anthony Cordle, who joins us in all our wishes and hopes for you, and who is with us now as we sign these letters. Anthony has had a really trying year because of Miranda's illness and has had to show great patience and love as they have coped with this together. Alistair is enjoying his children growing up. Peter is enjoying his front bench responsibility in the Labour Party agriculture team. And as you may have read Simon caught the headlines not a little by his proposal (so far formally not opposed) to make the Queen pay taxes on her private income.

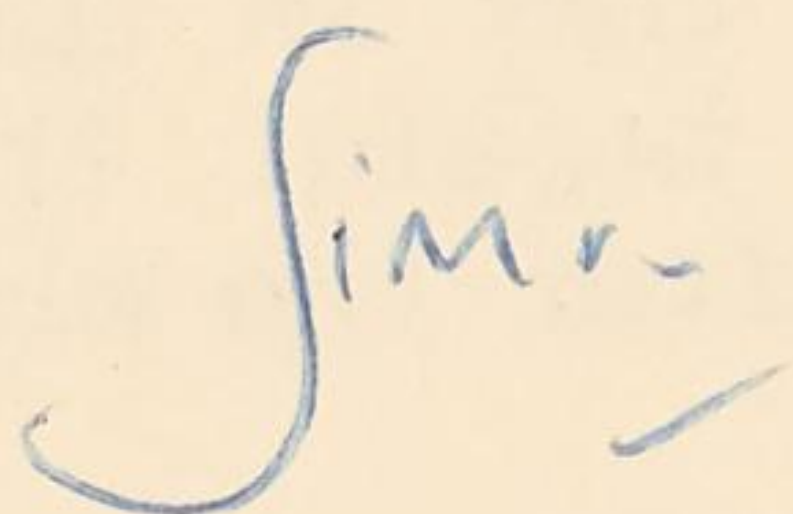
Such are the intricacies of personal and political life over here. We hope to visit you soon. It is not impossible that one or more of us may even come this year.

If any of you are coming to Britain please let Anthony know and as many of us as are around will try to meet with you.

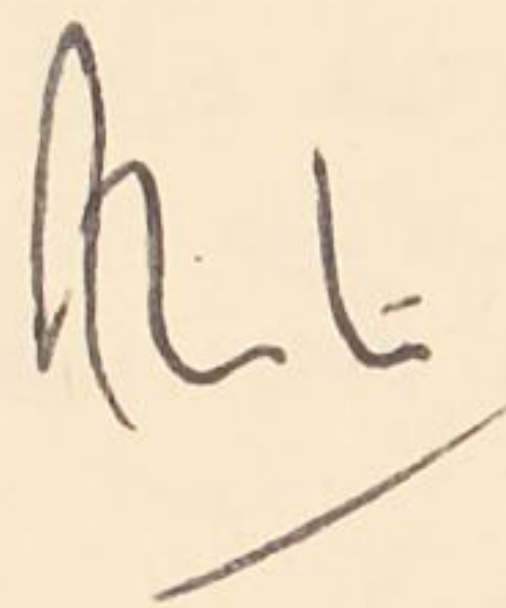
In the meantime, go well. Our love to you all.



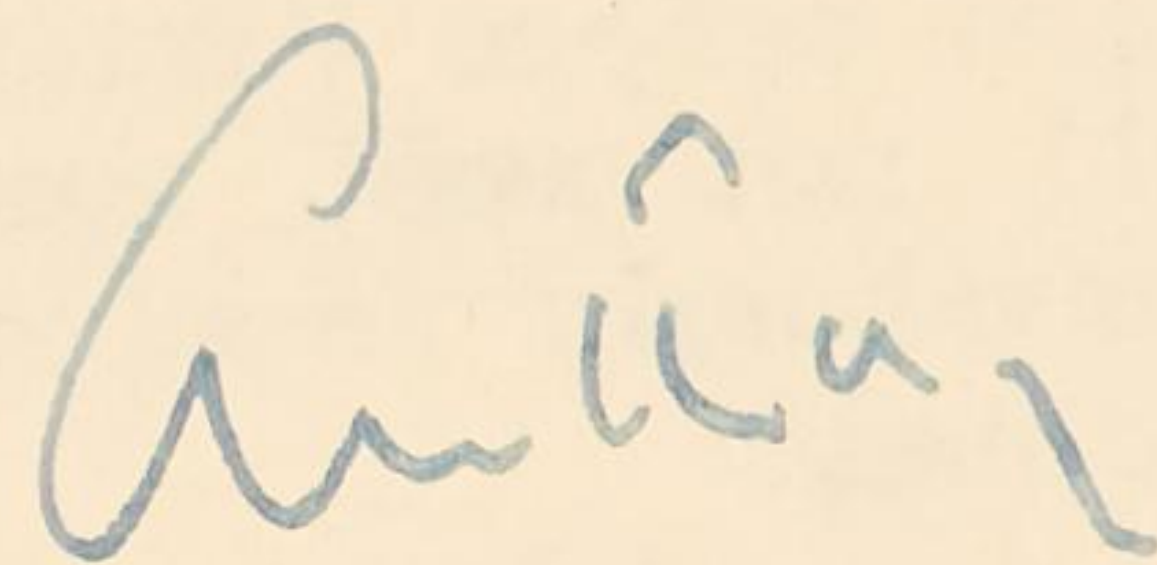
Peter Pike MP



Simon Hughes MP



Alistair Burt MP



Anthony Cordle



Comrade Walter Sisulu
National Reception Committee
African National Congress
Johannesburg
Republic of South Africa

CHECKED 4 0 AUG 1991

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