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# National Jewish Community Relations

## Advisory Council

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Fax (212) 686-1353

443 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016-7322

March 13, 1991

Tebogo Mafole  
Chief Representative to the United Nations  
African National Congress  
801 Second Avenue, Room 405  
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Mafole,

I am writing as a follow up to my telephone call to you to invite you to address the Ad Hoc Committee on Apartheid of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council on Tuesday, April 23, 1991. Our meeting will be held at our office at 443 Park Avenue South, 11th Floor (corner 30th street) beginning at 10:00 a.m..

If you are able to join us, we would like to address the group at 12:00 noon. We can adjust the time of your remarks if it is necessary to accommodate your schedule.

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In the forthcoming meeting, we intend to assess recent developments in South Africa as consider whether the changes underway call for an adjustment of our position supporting sanctions and maximum pressure on the de Klerk government to move more expeditiously and comprehensively. Some of our local communities have called for this assessment and our highest policy making body directed the Ad Hoc Committee to undertake this review. Clearly there are major considerations to be assessed before changing our position.

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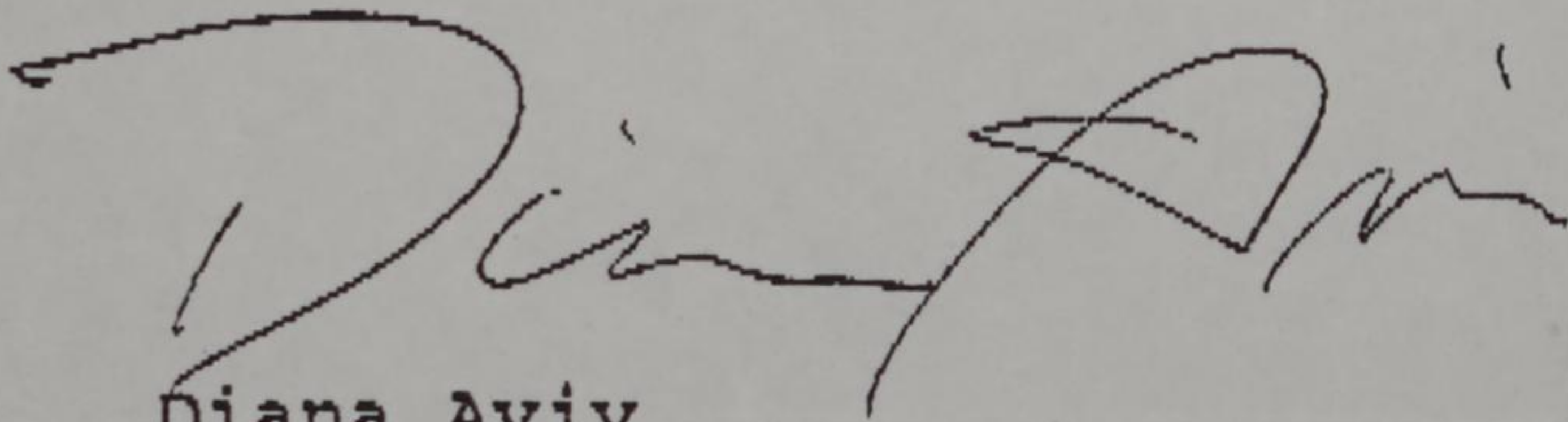


2

Since some of the leaders in the Jewish community most concerned with this issue have already met with you on several prior occasions, I believe that it would be most fitting for us to continue our dialogue and expand it to the subject in question. Your close proximity to our office is most fortunate, particularly due to the limitations on our travel budget.

The meeting will begin with an update by Steve Davis of IRRC, and author of "Apartheid's Rebels", followed by some discussion. Thereafter we hope to hear from you and Ambassador Harry Schwartz, although we have not yet invited him. As you might expect, there are many in our community who would be interested in hearing from him. I hope to hear from you as soon as possible, so that I can confirm the arrangements for the meeting. Please would you call me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Diana Aviv". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "A".

Diana Aviv  
Associate Executive Vice Chair



# National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council

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January 25, 1991

Hon. Tebogo Mafole  
Chief Representative  
African National Congress  
Observer to the United Nations  
801 Second Avenue, Suite 605  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Hon. Mafole:

I have not yet had the opportunity to formally wish you greetings in the new year. It seems that our attention for the last few weeks has been focussed entirely on the events in the Middle East.

Many of our member agencies were disturbed by the report in the January 22, 1991 copy of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency regarding the response by some ANC supporters or members to the current Middle East conflict. In particular I was interested in your comments on the rally reported in the attached article and on Winnie Mandela's comments on the suffering of the Palestinian people.

I would like the opportunity to discuss this issue with you and clarify to our members the actual position of the ANC vis-a-vis the Persian Gulf war and the position of Israel with respect to this war.

As always, my very best wishes to you.

Sincerely,



Diana Aviv  
Assistant Director

DA:bp

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JANUARY 22, 1991

-3-

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

## IMMIGRANTS CONTINUE ARRIVING IN ISRAEL DESPITE WAR DANGERS

By Charles Hoffman

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- More than 3,000 immigrants, the vast majority of them from the Soviet Union, arrived in Israel during the first five days of the war with Iraq.

Special El Al flights kept bringing in Soviet Jews from the transit stations in Eastern Europe -- Budapest, Warsaw and Bucharest -- even during the two nights when Iraqi missiles hit Tel Aviv.

A plane load of Ethiopian immigrants, coming by way of Rome, also arrived during this time.

In a special consultation held shortly after hostilities in the Persian Gulf began, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Diniz decided it would be preferable not to halt immigrant flights, despite the emergency footing in Israel.

One reason for not stopping the immigrant airlift from Eastern Europe is, paradoxically, security. It is believed that the immigrants are safer in Israel than if they stayed for days or weeks in the transit centers. During the past year, Arab terror groups have threatened to strike at the transit operation.

During the first three weeks of January, about 10,000 immigrants arrived. Absorption officials in Jerusalem believe that the total for this month will be considerably lower than the record 35,000 immigrants who arrived in December.

Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz said concerns about the war in the Middle East have led some Soviet immigrants to postpone their departure. He added that recent cuts in the absorption grant given newcomers during their first year have prompted others to reconsider.

### Broadcasts In Amharic And Russian

Israel Television interviewed some of the undaunted Soviet immigrants who arrived on Sunday. Soon after they deplaned and started the paperwork with Absorption Ministry officials at Ben-Gurion Airport, the immigrants were given gas masks. Russian-speaking soldiers gave them instructions on their use.

"Of course we heard about the missile attack on Israel when we were still in the Soviet Union," said an elderly man, his chest covered with Soviet medals and decorations.

"But you know what the government there says: Israel should not retaliate. What they don't tell people is that Russia told Iraq the missiles!"

Said a young woman: "Of course we heard about the missiles, and we are somewhat afraid. But I still want to live in Tel Aviv. It's important for me to live in a big city."

Another woman, who was recorded while she spoke on the phone to relatives shortly after her arrival, said: "Yes, everything is alright. We have been given our gas masks. It's good to be here."

An Absorption Ministry official at the airport said the new immigrants are so preoccupied with getting settled that they do not have much time to worry about the security situation.

Newscasts and special emergency announcements in Russian are broadcast by Israel Television. The radio carries important announcements in Russian and other languages, including Amharic, the language spoken by Ethiopian immigrants.

Efforts are being made by government and voluntary organizations to provide transistor radios to the new immigrants, so that they can follow emergency announcements.

## ANC BACKS SADDAM HUSSEIN, WHILE JEWS RALLY FOR ISRAEL

By Carolyn Raphaely

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Pro- and anti-Israel emotions ran high at rallies in South African cities over the weekend.

About 2,000 demonstrators, some wearing kaffiyehs, protested the war against Iraq by burning replicas of American and Israeli flags at a rally Sunday in a sports stadium in Athlone, near Cape Town. The district is home to the majority of South Africa's 750,000 Moslems.

About 5,000 members of the African National Congress celebrating the organization's 79th birthday at a rally at Soweto's Jabulani stadium, carried posters with messages such as "We Love You, Saddam."

Solly Sacks, chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, said, "Anti-Israel, anti-Jewish sentiments are nothing new, but they're being expressed more vociferously at the moment."

Security was increased at synagogues all over the country after about 150 people were arrested at a demonstration outside the U.S. Mission in Cape Town last week.

An all-night vigil Sunday night outside the Oxford Synagogue in Johannesburg was well attended. It was organized by the South African Union of Jewish Students to express solidarity with Israel.

The gathering was addressed by prominent local Jews including Sacks; South Africa's ambassador-designate to the United States, Harry Schwartz; and Rabbi Cyril Harris, chief rabbi of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues.

Sacks acknowledged that Jewish community leaders have made no direct attempts to meet with local Moslem leaders. "We're not sure it would serve any purpose," he said.

### Anti-Jewish Sentiments Escalating

Rabbi Norman Bernhard of the Oxford Synagogue said, "Obviously, the burning of Israeli flags and the shouting of ugly slogans is distasteful, and we are clearly concerned about ANC and Moslem reactions to events in the Gulf."

The rabbi observed, "We have enough problems here without external events serving to drive further wedges between local groupings. This seems to be yet another bump along the road to a new South Africa."

Ibrahim Kharsany, managing director of the Johannesburg-based Islamic Bank, has warned that "existing strong anti-Jewish sentiments in the local Moslem community are escalating and gaining momentum countrywide."

"There is a lot of anger directed at the United States, particularly since the reaction to the occupation of Kuwait has been entirely different from that of the Israeli occupation. Israel and the United States are seen to be in collusion," he said.

The ANC's welfare chief, Winnie Mandela, said the United States had no right to be in the Persian Gulf and the war would lead to the continued suffering of the Palestinian people.

The ANC has called for an immediate end to the Gulf war and opposes the government's offer to the United States to use South African harbors and air bases if necessary.

Foreign Minister Roloef (Pik) Botha and Defense Minister Magnus Malan have said South Africa would provide whatever assistance was necessary to the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf.