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Chat. July 1986.

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Dear friends,

1 Eyssen Street  
MONTAGU 6720

SOUTH AFRICA  
2 July 1986

Coming back was quite a "comedown?"

Time really flies! It is already two weeks ago  
South Africa.  
on Wednesday June 11 and arrived in Rome the next morning.  
day in Rome and left for South Africa at midnight.  
English newspapers in Rome and therefore did not know about the State  
of Emergency until we landed at Jan Smuts airport in Johannesburg on  
Friday morning.  
at DP Malan  
State of Emergency very real.  
we passed through several road blockades.

airport in Cape Town suddenly made the reality of the

The presence of police at Jan Smuts and later the day

that I arrived back in

I did not see any

I left New York

During the trip from Cape Town to Montagu

I spent the

On arriving in Montagu I heard that 14 people had been shot in Zolani  
(Ashton) in a fight between the Vigilantes and Young Comrades.

The  
Vigilantes received arms from the police.  
Although nobody died, some  
were very badly injured.  
when the casualties were brought in.  
never in his life experience something like that again.  
More recently,  
some 17 youngsters from Ashton and Montagu have been detained under the  
spurious and evil regulations of the State of Emergency.  
the new laws these young men can be held for 180 days  
without so much as a visit from a lawyer.

I talked to the doctor on duty at the hospital

He said he hopes that he will

without trial,

In terms of

Day after day we receive news of friends who have been arrested. The  
MAG correspondence is very censored and there is a lot of information  
that I would like to mention to you â\200\224-  
in a letter!

but better not

Enough of this horrible situation!

I look back on my visit to the U.S.A. with great gratitude;  
to Ford Foundation who made it possible.  
people who helped to make my program a success;  
friends I made.....

Gratitude to all the wonderful

Gratitude to all the

Gratitude

It was wonderful to see Lorraine (my wife) and the children (K003 and Lizelle) again.

After my return from the U.S.A. I had one short week back to work and then left Montagu for a week's holiday with my family up in the North-Western Cape, where my brother Gawie, has a farm.  
full to get away from all the tension and I was quite tired too.

It was really wonder=

Thinking back -â\200\224 to my wonderful experience in the U.S.A. I am sure that it has been one of the most

important 14 days of my life.

It was Goethe who said:

"The world is so empty if one thinks only of mountains, rivers and cities; but to know someone here and there who thinks and feels with us, and who, though distant, is close to us in spirit, this makes the earth an inhabited garden".

- 2 -

In our situation one tends to flee to the mountains and rivers....  
tends to withdraw from contact - apartheid has taught us to well â\200\224-  
The visit to the States has taught me anew the value of friends who  
"feels with us, and who, though distant, is close to us in Spirit", and  
I thank you all for that!

one

I hope to hear from you soon;  
as it is practically possible).

and promise to keep in touch ( as far

Much love

a

DIRK MARAIS.