

Joe Davidson
New Safari Hotel
Room 66
ARUSHA, TANZANIA

3rd December, 1987

President Oliver Tambo
African National Congress
Arueha International Conference Centre
ARUSHA, TANZANIA

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Dear President Tambo,

As a journalist with a long time interest in the fight for
freedom in South Africa, I have sought to do an indepth story
on the African National Congress.

Beginning several years ago,

I told Johannie Makitini of my desire to do an ANC Training
Camp' story.

More recently I have spoken at length with
Thabo Mbeki and his staff.

I understand that as of now, that type of story will not be
allowed.

Nonetheless, a good Journalist is a persistent

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(ks a forever final answer, I am to lag the liberty of
appealling directly to you.

I would like to urge the very top level of the gag to consider
the advantages of my proposal. and specifically the advantages
of me doing the story.

Reactionary Rebel groups such as

UNITA, the Centras and even the Afghan Rebels â\200\224 have long
recognized the importance of publicity.

I do not for one

moment suggest these groups are in the same league as the
AEQ; But these groups have opened their military operations
to numerous reporters whose reports portray the groups as
dedicated, selfless fighters for a cause.

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That kind of publicity can generate considerable support,
both political and economic.

ANC members at this Conference have made clear a strong
desire for increased International backing of the ANC as
the sole Democratic Alternative to the Racist Regime in
Pretoria.

That Backing would include greater Diplomatic
Recognition and increased material support from freedom
lovers around the world.

I believe the kind of indepth,

fair and accurate reportiggÃ©gn t2? AN
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complete with a training ca
(Ideally, I would like to observe MK Mission inside South
of support.

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Africa, but I won't push for that now) I think my proposed
story idea would add to the rejuvenated campaign that will
emerge from this Conference.

At the risk of appearing immodest, I'll add that I feel
particularly qualified to do the story because my affinity
for the liberation struggle is more than political, It's
emotional.

Although born and raised an American Citizen,

I am proud to say I am an African.

Africa is in my heart

in my blood.

On a more practical level, my news paper

is purchased by more people in the United States than any other. The Wall Street Journal is read by about six million people daily.

And while it has a very conservative editorial policy, the news Department for which I write, is totally independent.

Last year, a story I wrote about the Brutality of Life under Apartheid won a first place award by the National Association of Black Journalists at a Conference attended by Mr. Mbeki.

The Wall Street Journal is a particularly influential Newspaper because it is one of the few circulated Nationally in the United States.

The overseas editions are read by many thousand more in countries around the world.

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It is widely read by top government officials in Washington
and by business and wealthy people who carry great influence.

The story I propose would certainly run, on the front page
and reach many people in a position to change U.S. policies.

In case this letter has been persuasive and you wish to reach
me quickly,

I will be at the New Safari Hotel at least
through Sunday.

The telephone number is 3261.

Next week

I'll be in Dar es Salaam and I hope to visit SOMAFCO on
8th December.

I will be in Tanzania until at least until
15th December.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

dpk_,

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Davidson

J
â\200\230re Wall Street Journal
1025 Connecticut Ave. Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
U. S. A.

Telephone No: (202) 862-9222

Telex No: 892526

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John Harwood
Washington Correspondent

June 30, 1986

Mr. Johnny Makatini
Information Department
African National Congress
P.O. Box 31791
Lusaka, Zambia

Dear Mr. Makatini,

I am writing to try to arrange interviews with Oliver
Tambo and other officials of the African National Congress.

As you can see from this letterhead, I am a correspondent
for the St. Petersburg Times, which is a large newspaper
published in the U.S. state of Florida.
South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia during the month of July
and part of August.
Africa and the prospects for change in that country.
believe interviews with ANC officials are a Vital part
of the story.

I will be reporting on unrest in South

I will be Visiting

I

I will be in South Africa by the time you receive this letter;
I am staying at the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg.
to travel to Zimbabwe on August 1;
Meikles Hotel in Harare.
you can arrange an interview with Dr. Tambo.

I will be staying at the
I plan to come to Lusaka whenever

I plan

It may be difficult for me to contact you from South Africa.
However, if you can get word to me at my hotel about times
for interviews, that would be helpful.
will contact you from Harare when I arrive there.

In any event, I

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Harwood

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1414 22nd Street, NW. 0 Washington, DC. 20037 0 (202) 887-8660