



Outline answers to AABN questions

1. In the early days of exile, 30 years ago, the foundation of the AABN was one of the events which through the support it gave us strengthened us. We knew we were not alone in our belief in the justice of our struggle.

As the years went by and we saw that the lessons learnt by the Dutch people in WWII about the evils of racism were being applied to the understanding of the struggle against racism we were even more heartened.

In more recent years the public support you had generated enabled us to enjoy your hospitality at numerous seminars and conferences on the issue of building a unitary democratic and non-racial SA; conferences on women (Malibongwe); on culture in a new SA; economic conferences; and so on.

We would like to stress the importance of the work of the Dutch media workers in their Radio Freedom Campaign. It was not only the equipment they provided us, but the in service training of our own broadcasters which helped to make Radio Freedom so effective.

2. The nature of solidarity is already indicated above: it strengthens us not only directly through the material and political support, but gives moral support which is so essential in those times when the struggle seems not to move forward as fast as we wish.

We believe very strongly that our host countries, like the Netherlands benefited from their work in solidarity with us. That work in support of the ANC provided a focus for all those who wished to show their opposition to racism wherever it rears its head. We believe that the starkness of racism in SA is like a mirror reflecting the racist nature of many countries in the world, not least your country. Opposition to apartheid causes an intellectual and emotional tension which must be expressed by opposition to racism everywhere.

Definitely there is a reverse influence on our struggle from the work of our Dutch comrades and supporters. That work proved to us that it is possible for people of whatever ethnic origin, to work together as equals, brothers and sisters in the struggle to win a better world.

We were constantly enriched by our social contacts and personal friendships which we were so fortunate to enjoy with so many people in your country.

3. This has been partly answered in paragraph two of 2. above. we would like to add that we rejoiced to see the dedication of so many comrades and friends who worked so tirelessly in support of our struggle, and made our struggle their struggle even though you lived so far from our country. Your practical expression of the belief in the oneness of all nations is a joy to behold. Solutions to national problems truly have international ramifications.

4. We need your continued support to enable us to be successful in the negotiations which will soon get underway. It is the

strength of the ANC on the ground in SA and the extent of international support for us which enables us to be firm in our demands for our principled positions to be met.

It is too early to give up the campaigns to isolate the apartheid government/ regime. It is too early to give up campaigns in support of the ANC. There is the need to get our exiles home and active in support of themselves and the ANC. We need to build the structures of the ANC to enable us to carry out our political tasks of mobilising the people of SA for a constituent assembly elected on the basis of one person one vote, for the rights of working people, for the police and other armed forces of the state to be brought under control, to maintain the pressure for a just settlement of the aftermath of so many decades of racism by law.

We need you to start thinking about the future when the struggle is over in formal constitutional terms but the task of rebuilding our country to overcome the terrible legacy of underdevelopment. We will need you to be on your guard to help us resist those powerful individuals and countries who will seek to force us to look after the interests of those who benefited from apartheid and not those who suffered its direct consequences. We will need your support as we carry through the more radical elements of transformation of our society and its economy which will have to grow to serve the needs of all of our thirty five million people.

5. and 6 and 7. I cannot be of much help here.

8. We thank you for your magnificent support in the past and in helping us to restore our belief in the possibility of a non-racial society. We look forward to continuing the firm friendships we have established with so many of you. At a more personal level, I wish to thank you all for your support and good wishes in my own difficult time of ill health, from which I am making a good recovery. I look forward to many of you joining us in SA to celebrate the formal end of the apartheid system and the inauguration of a unitary, non-racial and democratic SA. We also look forward to your continued help in what will be the most exciting of tasks, the rebuilding of our country to achieve our goals in reality.



country in which the solidarity movement is based. Is there, beyond that important work, something that could be called the nature of solidarity? Does the struggle in South Africa influence the people in the countries where solidarity work takes place and could there also be an influence the other way round, i.e. solidarity work influencing the struggle? How do you see personal friendships and friendly dialogue in this regard?

3. Do you think the ANC's struggle has influenced our (western) societies and our work as political activists in these societies?

4. What do you expect from us, the solidarity movements, in the coming period?

5. How are you? Is your health improving? Have you been making plans for the near future?

6. You have been struck, Comrade President, by a severe health problem, exactly in this exciting period. Your friend, vice-president Nelson Mandela was freed and the ANC unbanned. You had to experience all of this on the side-line. We have been with you, thinking of you, asking ourselves: how is he experiencing this, what is he thinking now? Can you please give us a few words about how you experienced the year 1990?

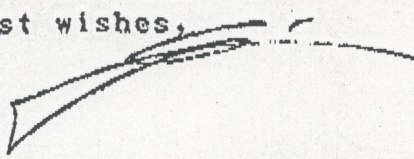
7. Would your present condition permit you to go home in the near future? Have you got any plans to go home? If so, when would that be?

8. Do you have a special message for us, activists in the AABN, and/or the Dutch people in general?

Thank you very much, Comrade President, for your answers. As our deadline is on the first of September, could we -please, please- have them within a week? We know it is short notice, but, you see, we have been trying to arrange a meeting with you for a month now and only yesterday we learned that that was not possible.

We hope one day we can meet you in person.

Again, best wishes,



OTP/012/093/13

To: Comrade
O.R. Tambo
President of the
African National Congress

Amsterdam, August 22

Dear Comrade President,

As you possibly know, this year the Anti Apartheid Movement of the Netherlands (AABN) will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary. Because of this special occasion, we will edit a special newspaper which will have -for Dutch standards- a very large circulation among the Dutch public. It will be sold in all major bookshops in the country and there will be attention for the project from major writing and broadcasting media. We are very happy as well to be able to count on the collaboration of a variety of fine and -nationally- famous Dutch writers and journalists.

Of course we will, in this special edition of Anti Apartheidskrant, also highlight our present fundraising-campaign for the ANC, which has to build structures in the country and create possibilities for the return of the exiled people.

To mark this occasion -thirty years of solidarity work- in the very exciting year of 1990, we would like to ask of you, Comrade President, a very special favour. Below, we have put a few questions: they concern issues that are of great importance to us, e.g. the nature of solidarity work and the relationship(s) that one can have in the global conglomeration of liberation struggle and solidarity. We know that you, as you have visited us in Holland on several occasions, are well informed about our work and that you have a lot of knowledge and interesting views on solidarity work in general. We -and that includes Conny Braam, who sends her love and best wishes- would be greatly honoured and very happy if you would, by answering these questions, share your views with us on these subjects.

Naturally we would have been even more happy if your condition would have permitted a 'live' interview -we would have come to London. It is sad to learn that you have not yet fully recovered, at least not enough to see us. We hope you will get totally well again soon.

Love and best wishes from Holland
Yours in the struggle
Bart Luijck
Evelien Groenink
De ANTI-APARTHEIDSKRANT

Questions:

1. Thinking of Holland, which memories come to your mind?
2. Solidarity work concerns, in daily routine, mostly fundraising, informing the public and pressurizing the government of the