

African National Congress

(SOUTH AFRICA)

Representatives :

M. MOOLLA
A. MSIMANG

Asian Mission

P. O. Box No. 758
F-68, Bhagat Singh Market
New Delhi - 1

March 16, 1978.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Mr. S. DINAT and Miss Unjinee Poonen are bona fide students from South Africa.

Both students were active in the anti-apartheid struggle whilst in South Africa and as a result of their activities were detained and harassed by South Africa's white-minority racist regime. They were compelled to leave South Africa to further their educational qualifications abroad. Both were rusticated from an educational institute owing to their strong anti-racist views.

Our Mission would greatly appreciate any assistance enabling them to enter an educational institute being rendered to them.

Our Mission would be recommending them to the Government of India or the United Nations as worthy candidates for scholarships once their admissions are finalised.

With many thanks for your kind co-operation and assistance.

Yours, sincerely,

M. Moolla
M. MOOLLA

CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE.

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
(SOUTH AFRICA)

Tel. Nos.: 73006

P.O. Box 1791
LUSAKA
ZAMBIA

*File
mission
Lusaka*

4th August 1978.

Secretary-General,
African National Congress(SA),
Lusaka.

Comrade Secretary-General,

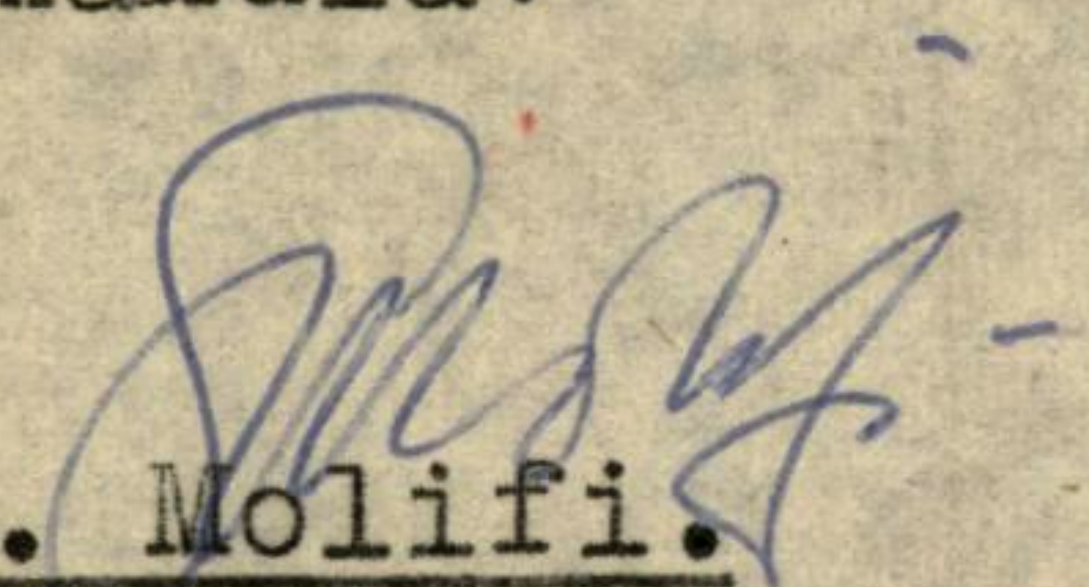
Re: S. Dinat and Miss Unjinee Poonen.

Herein enclosed please find a letter dated 4th July 1978 addressed to our mission by the above together with a photostat copy of a letter of recommendation from our India Mission.

Also enclosed herein , is a copy of our reply to Mr. Dinat.

Awaiting your reaction and advise on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Amandla!


S. Molifi.
Representative.

% Welcome Hotel,
Cuvepipe Road,
Cuvepipe,
Mauritius,
4th July, 1978

The Chief Representative,
African National Congress,
Lusaka,
Dear Sir,

I am aware that you and the comrades have important work, but I beg for a hearing, even at the risk of being called arrogant.

My comrade, Miss Pooan and I were forced to leave our country because of political harassment by the security police, detentions and the prospect of further detentions. We were organising our people in Leuz, through the BPC and SASO branch that we established in this ghetto. We also formed the Action Committee (still active) and campaigned against the 3 parliament system and the bantustan policy. To mention a few of the projects we got off the ground; a home work centre for students (the students eventually formed the Leuzasia Student Movement ^(LSM), which worked closely with SSRC and got full recognition from South African Student's Movement); a theatre group called 'Workshop Leuz' produced local plays, music for Leuz people; COMPRO, an all comprising socio-political welfare project to replace ethnic, capitalist charities groups like JISWA; bulk buying scheme; leadership training; a Black People's Sports Council (under Don Mathera) and were also responsible for organising national events such as Heroes Week, Soweto Day and Tributes to fallen heroes of the struggle.

Both of us were first year students at the Transvaal College of Education (TCE) and in my first month I was elected vice-president of the Students Representative Council (SRC). My comrade was an SRC executive and in the next election she was elected president. At College, politicizing students was an exciting challenge, we published a fortnightly student political magazine called FLIGHT, which was free, we sold SASO newsletters when available. Regardless of constitution regulations, we invited other

students, from Rand College, Jabulani College, the Black Students at Wits, and we got invited to their campuses. In this way we envisaged a strong, Transvaal Union of Students to mobilise people in this Witwatersrand area. Cultural afternoons were spent producing skits, music and debates on the reality around us. Black journalist and sportsmen were invited to speak, this led to enlightening discussion their role towards liberation.

These efforts had rewarding results. At each call for a stayaway we got majority support, for the projects in Lenz to be successful people were needed, students willingly spent their time doing political work, at prayer meetings, protest gatherings students from TCE were present in large numbers and on many occasions at the helm. TCE was invited to the 9th SASO Conference, we sent a full delegation, I presented a paper on Liberatory Education which was unanimously accepted.

The security police, were on our trail from the start. The events in Lenz fell under the surveillance of Maj. Heystack of the Probesecurity Hdq. The activities in Fordsburg were under the eye of Maj. Grefling of Jon Vorster Square. I was first detained, after addressing a large crowd in Orlando to commemorate Heroes Day and the inaugural meeting of the (LSM), in March. Since then I have been in custody for short period of times on numerous occasions. With the crackdown on Oct 19, my house was raided and the police detained me. Miss Pevan was detained two days later after organising a protest meeting against the banning of the organisations and the detention of our leaders. At this meeting about 97 other students were arrested and later released (2 days in jail) after pleading guilty to the Riotous Ass Act. I was initially held at Jabulani, and later transferred to Jon Vorster Police Station. We were told that we were being held under Section 6 Article 22 of the Terrorism Act.

We were beaten and humiliated daily, and were forced to make a detail statement, from which we deduced that they were planning to file a case against Dlamini for breaking his banning orders. Also to possibly use us as state witnesses

against some of the SSRC brothers who were detained for sabotage, and failing to do this we would be kept in detention. However, we were released. I left home with my passport (realising the break I had) and lived with friends. I flew out on 25/12/77. Miss Pooan, not having a passport fled illegally into Botswana, and is presently travelling as a refugee on a United Nations Travel Document.

We met each other in India and submitted our report to the office in New Delhi. After assessing the educational system in India, we found it lacking and too regional for our needs. I wish to read Agriculture, with economics (of rural development as principal subjects) and Miss Pooan wish to continue in the educational field. The climate, food and home-sickness got us depressed and we decided to leave India for Mauritius. I have just arrived here, made an application to the University of Mauritius for a course in Agriculture & Sugar Technology and have enquired about the possibility of Miss Pooan continuing her educational pursuits at the Mauritius Institute of Education, though she may have to enroll to do her A level first. She is, however still in India, and waiting for an opportunity to join me here. She is writing to friends for financial help.

Even in India we were busy. The ignorance of South Africa and the problems we are facing is astounding. May 25 I spoke at the Peace & Solidarity Organisation meeting, and Miss Pooan have just successfully organised June 26 Liberation Day in Bangalore. We wrote to the press regularly, confronting the view expressed by Mr. Vavachia (govt. stooge Vavachia) who told the Indian Cricket Board, that racism no longer exist in sport in South Africa. We told the public our opinion that this man is a fraud, not expressing the views of the majority of the people and that racism is a norm in a fascist state. That my dear comrade is our pitiful story. When I read in the paper how pleasant life has been for exiles like Mr. Woods I wonder where did I falter? Dining with the British High Commissioner, making a film!

We desperately need assistance from the ANC or any other organisation concerned in our well being in the following regards:-

a. to ~~organise~~ arrange a scholarship for both of us as soon as we been admitted to an educational institution. To advise us on the probability of being able to study in the USSR or some other progressive place.

b. to assist Miss Poonan who may have problems with the local authorities with respect to their 'dubious' UNations Travel Document. She was detained 18 hours in India because the authorities did not have the knowledge of a Travel Document existed as such.

c. to assist us with a monthly stipend, till the scholarship is finalised.

Thank - you very much. I know I have demanded a great deal from you, when I have sacrificed so little, I have tiny scars, comrades have eye-seve wounds. I gave only what I could, but the future has no bounds, no bounds till the victory.

I'd appreciated a letter as soon as possible, with details as to how you can help. If on the other hand you cannot help, please do likewise, drop me a note so that I may know what I am facing.

Amanallah!
Venceremos!

Please find attached a letter written by the ANC on our behalf.

Nav. G. Dinat