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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

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,





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FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

To: The President

RE: As Enclosed

FROM: Mendi Msimang

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