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7 December 1988  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND PEACE MOVEMENT

Mr. Johnny Makatini

Director, International Department

African National Congress

P.O.B. 31791

Lusaka, Zambia

Dear Mr. Makatini,

Peter Weiss suggested that I write you directly regarding the Civil Rights and Peace Movement's interest in establishing ties with the ANC. The CRM is a political party in Israel with five representatives in the Knesset (parliament) and holds a central position in the political opposition, particularly following the results of our recent elections. Although the focus of our activities centre around domestic and regional issues, our concern with human rights and political equality extends to the international community as well, especially when our government is connected with the ruling authorities in areas like Chile and South Africa. Our foreign affairs committee, headed by Dr. Edy Kaufman, who was a member of the executive of Amnesty International in its London headquarters from 1978 - 1985, assists our Knesset representatives in their efforts to raise issues which require public condemnation, criticism, or, as in the case of the ANC, support.

On the subject of South Africa, the CRM has maintained a consistent and outspoken anti-apartheid position in the Knesset which in recent years has included the introduction of a parliamentary resolution condemning apartheid and calling for sanctions; demands for an investigation of military relations between South Africa and Israel, as well as deviations from the limited sanctions imposed by the Cabinet in September 1987; and monitoring the cessation of trade and economic links between companies affiliated with the Histadrut Trade Union in Israel and South African business and commercial

interests.

Members of the CRM have been at the forefront of anti-apartheid protest in Israel and have organized demonstrations against the Embassy and resident ambassador, as a result of which the public display of friendship accorded official representatives from Pretoria has discontinued. We have added our voice to the call for an end to political detention and have found that by focusing on individuals we have been able to generate considerable public support. Undoubtedly, these are almost significant steps in the overall struggle against the apartheid regime, but to remain silent on this basis would be immoral and in contradiction to the historical development of the Jewish people.

Although we understand the reasons that led the ANC to take a hostile position towards our government over the last twenty years, we are certain that the absence of contact between your movement and progressive Zionist organizations here weakens our ability to influence our government vis-a-vis curtailing links which serve to prolong the existence of the apartheid regime. Furthermore, we believe that it is important that a dialogue between us be renewed in preparation for the day when the ANC will play the leading role in the formation of a democratic government in a united non-racial South Africa.

One of the subjects we would like to raise in such a dialogue is the continued ANC support of the "Zionism is Racism" resolution. We define Zionism as the national liberation movement of the Jewish people and believe this is not in conflict with respecting the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and their desire for a national homeland. Therefore we support the view that peace can only come in our region through territorial compromise and accommodation based on mutual recognition between Palestinians and Israelis and a political settlement agreed upon between the PLO and Israel. In our view, only those who support both; the national aspirations of the Jewish people (Zionism) and the national aspirations of the Palestinian people (PLO) can be instrumental in encouraging joint Palestinian and Isra

eli efforts  
towards this goal. The ANC support of the PLO need not prevent you from supporting  
the Israeli peace camp, particularly at a time when prominent PLO members and Israelis  
have frequently met together in recent years.

Finally, we believe that a distinction must be made between the Israeli government  
and the Israeli people and, as history has shown, governments do change and political

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alliances forged between progressive movements are ultimately important  
in future foreign policies.

I do hope that we can be placed on your mailing list and that informal or formal meetings can take place in London or Lusaka between us.

We would also like to interest you in making at least an informal visit to this area in order to examine the political situation from a closer distance and meet with Israeli (Arab and Jewish) and Palestinian anti-apartheid and peace activists.

I hope to hear from you soon

Coordinator on South Africa, Foreign Affairs Cttee.  
Civil Rights and Peace Movement

cc: Dr. Edy Kaufman

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