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## AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

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POLITICAL PRISONERS COMMITTEE

SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE

RECEIVED

DATE: 18/12/1989

ANC (SA) BOX 31791

6th February, 1989.

### TO ALL MISSIONS:

The coming year will bring increased responsibilities to the ANC in the sphere of political prisoners and detainees. Nelson Mandela and the other Rivonia trialists are still not free. There are over 1,000 detainees being held. The Delmas trial has brought in its wake a new and alarming definition of treason. Our urgent task is to mobilise the international community on a level never before reached. The regime must be made to accept the inevitable changes demanded of it!

Delmas Trial: The unjust convictions and the outrageous sentences handed down at the Delmas treason trial are common knowledge by now. After more than 3 years in prison, Terror Lekota, Popo Molefe and Moss Chikane, all leading officials of the UDF, were sentenced to 12 years for treason. Tom Manthata, a Soweto church worker, was sentenced to 6 years for treason. 7 of the remaining 15 trialists were jailed for terrorism and 8 were acquitted. Without a shred of evidence of any link with the ANC, the Judge found "the dominant leadership of the UDF were active as the internal wing of the ANC." Again, without any evidence of violence either carried out or advocated by the accused, he decided that, by establishing the UDF as a mass organisation opposing the policies of the regime, they were fostering a "revolutionary climate" which would lead to mass action against the state institutions, and therefore they were guilty of promoting violence - guilty of terrorism and treason. The United States, Canada and West Germany condemned these verdicts and sentences at government level.

Our attention must be focussed on the pending appeal which has been lodged. We must ensure that these convictions are set aside and that those who have been found guilty on the evidence before the court should be allowed to go free and continue their lawful pursuits they were engaged in at the time of their arrest. THESE ARRESTS SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN MADE! If the convictions are not set aside the way forward in South Africa will be more difficult than ever. Previous "lawful" activity, restricted as it has been, will be impossible and every voice raised against the regime could be interpreted as an act of treason liable to heavy prison sentences and even death.

Detainees: There are over 1,000 detainees, some of whom have been in detention virtually since the first State of Emergency was declared in 1985. Long periods - even short periods - of solitary confinement have a serious effect on the mind and the body. Particularly the long-term detainees must not be forgotten and it is hoped soon to provide a list of the names and brief biographies of some of them. Examples are:

1. Ivy Gcina was detained in July, 1985 and released early in 1986 only to be redetained in June 1986. She is still in detention, suffering from high blood pressure and partially deaf as a result of police torture.
2. Amos Masondo detained with the first State of Emergency in 1985, released in March 1986 and redetained in June 1986. He is still in detention.

Moreover, those released must be able to pursue their former livelihoods.



Zwelakhe Sisulu and Raymond Suttner have both been prohibited from continuing with their former jobs.

End Apartheid Executions: An updated list of those awaiting execution will be sent together with the list of detainees. Robert McBride and those with him are all in danger of execution. We must keep up the pressure to put an end to these murders! Over 60 people are in this situation, some pending appeal.

Prisoner of War Status: This issue must not be allowed to lapse. We have had no response from any of the Missions. We asked that representations should be made to those countries who have not yet ratified the Additional Protocols of 1977 to the original Geneva Conventions. Have these representations been made? Please let us know.

Ismail Ebrahim: He has been sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and has appealed against this sentence. He is also suing the regime for his illegal abduction from Swaziland. The two others with him were sentenced to 23 years and 12 years.

Release all Political Prisoners: Nelson Mandela is still not free. The other Rivonia trialists and Wilton Mkwayi, all of whom have been imprisoned for more than a quarter of a century, are still not free. The demand for their unconditional release and the unconditional release of all political prisoners is our continuing responsibility.

**WE DEMAND THE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DETAINEES!!**

A suitable date for demonstrations: April 6th, 1989 is the 10th anniversary of the execution of Solomon Mahlangu.