



23 Spilsby Avenue,
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Pietermaritzburg 3201

The Editors,
Reality
P O Box 1104
Pietermaritzburg 3200

19 August 1987

Dear Editors,

I seem to remember reading in an old issue of Reality that it was policy not to publish letters. I am nevertheless enclosing a letter which I would like considered for publication for a specific reason. I imagine that most people would accept that a policy of non-publication of letters is justified for periodicals comprising only signed articles: objectors can respond by publishing articles of their own and thus the process of intellectual and political discourse is initiated. In the case of ex-cathedra pronouncements in the form of editorials, however, the case is different. The corollary of an editorial must be some means of carrying the views of dissenters. In a newspaper the editorial and a letters column are symbiotic and provide a balance of opportunity for different viewpoints. It therefore seems logical that the editorial writers of Reality should provide space for their opinions to be challenged in the interests of political dialogue.

I hope that you will agree with this reasoning and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,
Christopher Merrett
C E MERRETT