



26th April, 1985.

Mrs. Helen Suzman, M.P.,  
House of Assembly,  
Parliament St.,  
Cape Town.

Dear Helen,

Mike Tarr has very kindly agreed to take this letter to you.

I saw Winnie last week and she asked me to pass on to you certain recent developments concerning Nelson -- and to ask you what, if anything, you think can be done about them.

- 1) She says Nelson and others are refusing to have further visits from the Magistrate. They say they are a waste of time. Instead they have written requesting to see the Judge-President of the W. Cape, something for which they say the Prisons Act provides.
- 2) Instead of being censored at Pollsmoor, as in the past, all their letters are being sent to Pretoria. The result is that there are long delays in letters getting through. Some may not be getting through at all. The request to see the Judge-President could be sitting there too.
- 3) After Zinzi had read Nelson's reply to PW out at Soweto, they saw that PW had said that he was awaiting a formal reply. A formal reply was then drafted and signed by the whole group. They made copies and requested permission for each of them to hand a copy to their families in the presence of their attorneys. This was refused and only PW's copy was accepted. They want to press this point as they feel that their families, as the people most closely affected by their decision, should know the full reasons behind it.
- 4) For the first time since leaving Robben Island Nelson has been refused permission to see his attorney. I don't know what he wanted to see him about.

These are the points she asked me to pass on to you, as I understood them. They may have got a bit blurred in transit from Nelson to her to me, and I don't know how that could be checked, without seeing him.

There is one other thing, and that concerns the Bethell fiasco. I think I have an explanation for that, but I also think I should only give it to you when we meet.

With my best wishes.