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PC/15/4/2/5
ALAN
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CENTRE
UNIP.

10th February, 1985.

Dear Tony,

I should have written this letter at least a month ago.

The young man for whom you were going to make the arrangements to do his practical work with a civil engineering firm decided not to go to take the course at Mabopane Technikon, but instead to go to the Mangosuthu Technikon near Durban, where he now is.

The reason for this change is that his elder brother has been at Mabopane doing an electrical course these past two years. Last year, when the troubles were on, he was injured, though not badly, by a rubber bullet. When he went back there, after the place had been closed, and then reopened, a petrol bomb was thrown into the room next to his. All this was too much for younger brother who, in January, decided that he would rather go somewhere safer and closer to home. Hence Mangosuthu.

What this means is that there is no immediate need to think about the practical experience, or to worry about accommodation in Johannesburg. He will have to get practical experience, but only in 1986 and 1987 when, it seems, he should spend six months at the Technikon and the other six months in the field. I will try to find him something in Natal but, in case I don't manage, could you keep him in mind?

I think our drought has broken at last --- and have a feeling everyone else's probably has too. It has been raining very nicely for three days now and we have past the five inch mark and are heading for six.

John had a bad time late last year. He was looking awful at Speech Day and a week later was rushed to hospital with an ulcer and hiatus hernia. They didn't keep him there for long but have put him on a diet which means he must now drink his whisky with milk. He and May paid us a visit the other evening, and he did that, and looked very well on it. One of the causes of his collapse was, I am sure, the fact that the school was very short of new applications at Speech Day. However, an advertisement at New Year brought a flood, and he has now got more than he has ever had, about 20% black --- and the school, he says, is running well.

Love to Jill and the boys.

Yours,
Alan