

PC16/574/5718

P.O.Box 71,
Hilton,
3245.

21st February, 1988.

Dear Robin,

I see that it has taken me more than three months to answer your letter of **November 16th**. Terrible!

I do know, Mrs. Biggs and corresponded with her about your articles at about the same time as she wrote to you, but I haven't heard whether she did anything further about distributing it. REALITY seems to face an ongoing financial crisis these days and we just didn't have the resources to be able to think of bringing out an attitude looking pamphlet... which is sad, because I think it would have been very worthwhile.

The news is that Cheryl's baby has arrived -- in the middle of a heatwave, I gather. It has an impressive array of names, starting of with Zachariah, and I hear from Ruth Lundie that both mother and son are well. You asked about the Brombergers and will be glad to hear that Joan has gone up to help Cheryl over the first few days. I am not sure whether she is back yet. She and Norman came to supper with us a few weeks ago -- always a stimulating event. Norman is always full of ideas, most of them not at all popular with the ideologues, but his academic life seems to be in a perpetual state of disorganisation, everything miles behind schedule. Joan didn't get a good enough pass to get into the honours class and is facing the grim prospect of going back to nursing for the year, probably at somewhere like Town Hill again.

There is no end in sight to the Maritzburg violence. We seem to have become a kind of extension of Msinga, where an eye-for-an-eye is the order of the day. Each side blames the other and insists that it only acts in self-defence. The trouble is nobody on either ~~side~~ side ever seems to meet or talk to anyone on the other (and this includes academics) so that it is quite impossible to get a balanced picture. My own reseraches are based on con-

versations with black hitchhikers. Almost without exception their lives have been disrupted, those from one area blaming the UDF, from the next, Inkatha. Most people have no affiliations and don't much like either side, and only wish that peace would return to their lives. Perhaps it will, but I am not at all sure that the UDF could control its own supporters if it wanted to or that Inkatha even wants to. And the police, of course, have done nothing to help by being seen to be very much on the side of Inkatha. A dreadful situation.

I want to assure you that I didn't crib your ideas on ANGOLA for the latest REALITY leader! I wrote the leader before your article came out in the Witness.

All the best,