

DRAFT

PATON PAPERS (BCSA 77/24

A 422 (iii)

PC 86/10/4/10/5

The Hon. Minister of Justice,
Department of Justice,

Protonia, ...
Dear Sir, ...
I would respectfully write to you to enquire whether you would give consideration to the request that Mr. Edward Daniels be granted a reduction on his prison sentence on grounds similar to those that have moved the South African Government to grant remissions to other members of the former African Resistance Movement (ARM) who have been released from prison and have left South Africa in the last two years.

As a result of the position I held in the ARM in Cape Town I consider myself to be in large part responsible for Mr. Daniels' present situation. I am consequently anxious, now that I am able to live a more normal existence, to make what efforts I can towards his release, by appealing to you on the basis of the truth as I see it.

Having been a member of the ARM, and having served on various committees of that organisation, I know that Mr. Daniels was, from late 1963 onwards, increasingly opposed to the continuation of activities involving sabotage. This can be supported by statements given to the Police and from evidence given before the Court in Cape Town. While Mr. Daniels did not, as I recall, request to leave the organization, he did express his wish to resign from the committees of which he was a member, especially the so-called 'planning committee' in Cape Town. It was largely due to my influence as a leading member of this committee that Mr. Daniels was persuaded not to resign. However, he did not in fact attend many meetings during 1964 and was not active at all from the beginning of that year. He participated in no sabotage activities in 1964, as the evidence produced in Court will substantiate.

More particularly, he continued through 1964 to oppose any further activities, but was over-ruled by other members. Mr. Daniels spoke strongly against the continuation of sabotage at a meeting held in Johannesburg in early 1964. Nevertheless, while there were others amongst us who were in doubt as to whether to continue or not, it was eventually decided to proceed with sabotage activities and Mr. Daniels' views did not prevail.

While Mr. Daniels' opinions were not accepted, he was persuaded to remain on various committees, though unwilling to do so, and I was, with others, largely responsible for this. Thus Mr. Daniels remained during 1964, opposed to policies of the organization and was, consequently, passive within it. That he received a heavy prison sentence for what others did and believed from late 1963 onwards, is a source of deep regret and concern for me, since I must admit to the role that I played in the developments that led to his present position. It is because of this that I write this personal letter to you now.

/In the light ...

2. ... to ...

In the light of Mr. Daniels' opposition to the use of violence and his non-participation in any acts of sabotage during 1964, I would wish respectfully to draw your attention to the fact that some of the persons who have already been released from prison and who have since left South Africa, were in fact in favour of, and participated in, acts of sabotage during 1964. Indeed all those who took part in the attempt on pylons near Cape Town on 18th June, 1964, have either been released or have left the country. As I have previously mentioned Mr. Daniels did not participate in this action at all, and remained convinced that the policies were wrong. And yet, despite this, he remained personally loyal to persons with whom he disagreed, both prior to and during the trials. Thereby revealing, I believe, a considerable personal integrity.

In view of the above and in view of the considerations that have led your Government to release other former members of the ANM, I would urgently and with respect, plead with you to reconsider the granting of remission to Mr. Daniels, so that he may take up the threads of normal life again. For he has paid a price for which others, and particularly myself, are equally, if not more, responsible.

- a) *Any comments*
- b) *Better as sworn statements*

... in the light of ...