



PATON PAPERS BC3A 77/R4 A 422(iii)

422 (iv)
Bowland College,
University of Lancaster,
Fillingay,
Lancaster, England.
16th January, 1970.

The Hon. Minister of Justice,
Government of South Africa,
Parliament Street,
Cape Town,
SOUTH AFRICA.

Christman

Dear Sir,

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

As a result of the position which I hold in that organization in Cape Town, I consider myself to be in large part to blame for Mr Daniels' present situation. I am consequently anxious to make what efforts I can towards achieving his release, by appealing to you on the basis of the truth as I see it.

Having been a member of that organization, and having served on various committees of it, I knew that Mr Daniels was, from late 1963 onwards, increasingly opposed to the continuation of sabotage activities. This view can be supported by statements given to the Police and fact evidence given before the Court in Cape Town. While Mr Daniels did not, as I re-call, request to leave the organization, he did express his wish to resign from committees of which he was a member, and 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 any meetings during 1964 and was not active at all from the beginning of that year. He participated in no sabotage during 1964, as the evidence in court will substantiate.

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

While Mr Daniels' opinions were not accepted, he was persuaded to remain on various committees in Cape Town, though unwilling to do so - and as mentioned above he did not attend meetings in 1964 - and I was, with others, largely responsible for this. Thus he remained during 1964 opposed to what the organization was doing and was passive and non-active 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.

ALAN
DANIEL
CASE
DRP.

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 been already released from prison and who have left South Africa, were in favour of, and participated in, sabotage activities during 1964. Indeed all those who took part in attempts on pylons near Cape Town on the 18th June, 1964, have either been released or left the country. While, on the other hand, Mr. Daniels neither took part in these activities nor believed that the policy being followed was right. And yet, despite this, he remained personally loyal to people 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 former members of the AEM, I would urgently and with respect plead with you to reconsider granting 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.

Yours faithfully,

R.

Adrian Leftwich