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THIS WEEK:

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#### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our honoured guest - Manmohan Singh

The Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, left our country on Tuesday October 3 to return home, having spent a few days in our country. He visited us to hold official bilateral discussions with our government as well as join us in celebrating the Centenary of Satyagraha.

We must again thank the Prime Minister, his wife and his delegation, which included CEOs of some leading Indian companies, for taking the time to be with us in what proved to be a very successful visit of friendship and solidarity that will surely help further to strengthen the already excellent relations that exist between our countries and peoples, and which stretch back well over a century.

It was indeed a matter of great pleasure and honour to us to host Prime Minister Singh, head of government of India, one of the rising giants among the global community of nations. All of us must be very happy that in Prime Minister Singh we have a true, genuine and dependable friend of our country and people, who is committed to doing everything possible further to strengthen our bilateral relations, among other things to help us to achieve our goal of establishing ourselves as a winning nation.

To strengthen our cooperation in this regard, Prime Minister Singh and I signed the important document entitled "The Tshwane Declaration on Reaffirming the Strategic Partnership between South Africa and India". Among others, this Declaration says:

"Both leaders noted that the political interaction between India and South Africa, marked by an exceptional degree of understanding, mutual trust and confidence, has gathered further momentum and substance. The number of Ministerial visits exchanged had increased significantly since the milestone visit of President Mbeki to India in 2003.

"They expressed their satisfaction at the continued and steady consolidation of bilateral relations. Besides the deep political bond that was first forged more than a century ago, the partnership now extends to the economic, human resources development, public administration and governance, urban and rural settlement, health, defence, cultural and science and technology fields.

"Recalling that the Red Fort Declaration had recognised that the economies of South Africa and India have certain comparative advantages, complementarities and resources which can be exploited to mutual benefit through trade, investment and transfer of technology, they noted with satisfaction the progress that had taken place in these areas, resulting in more than doubling of the total bilateral trade since 2003 and a significant increase in investments in both directions.

"They acknowledged however, that the full potential in this regard was yet to be tapped and reaffirmed their determination to explore these opportunities to their optimal extent, particularly in the following priority sectors: energy, tourism, health, automobiles and auto components, chemicals, dyes, textiles, fertilisers, information technology, small and medium business and infrastructure."

Whatever the content of the continuing debate about globalisation, the fact of the matter is that global integration and interdependence among the nations is expanding at an increasing rate. In many respects, this process is producing the disastrous consequence of the further widening of the disparity in wealth and development within countries and between the countries of the North and the South.

This phenomenon also finds serious expression both in South Africa and India. In this regard, we are in the fortunate position that the governments and peoples of both our countries have recognised the fact that this is a serious challenge that we must address both individually and collectively. This is the real significance of the passages from the "Tshwane Declaration" we have cited.

These passages indicate what the governments of India and South Africa are determined to do, covering many fields, to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries. We are resolved vigorously to implement this programme of cooperation because we are convinced that it will help both our countries to speed up our advance to the achievement of the goal of the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment in our countries, and thus the protection and enhancement of the human dignity of the masses of the people in India and South Africa.

This defines us as like-minded countries and peoples, providing a firm base for us to elaborate common programmes aimed at achieving shared objectives. In addition, and of great importance, is the observation contained in the "Tshwane Declaration", about the long-established ties of friendship and solidarity between South Africa and India.

In this regard we spoke of "an exceptional degree of understanding, mutual trust and confidence" between our countries and peoples, and "the deep political bond (between India and South Africa) that was first forged more than a century ago".

It is this that gives particular significance to the fact that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh joined us to celebrate the Centenary of Satyagraha. In his book, "Satyagraha in South Africa", Gandhi writes about the moment in Johannesburg on September 11, 1906, when the Transvaal Indian population met and took a decision to defy the then draft colonial Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance.

At this meeting he said: "The Ordinance seeks to humiliate not only ourselves but also the motherland (India). The humiliation consists in the degradation of innocent men. We are innocent, and insult offered to a single innocent member of a nation is tantamount to insulting the nation as a

whole. God will come to our help, if we calmly think out and carry out in time measures of resistance, presenting a united front and bearing the hardship, which such resistance brings in its train."

This is the message that Mahatma Gandhi left with our people as he sailed from Cape Town to return to India. He conveyed to the Indian people this same message, which had marked the beginning of Satyagraha.

Because the peoples of both South Africa and India fully absorbed and acted on this message, they attained the freedom to which the Mahatma dedicated his life and for which he perished. Given this, and much else besides, it could not but be that the relations between our peoples and countries should be characterised by "an exceptional degree of understanding, mutual trust and confidence".

Necessarily, the Centenary Celebration of Satyagraha also constituted a salute to that outstanding human being, Mahatma Gandhi. It will, for a long time, remain a black mark against our movement and our people that on October 1, we brought our esteemed guest, a comrade-in-arms and an outstanding representative of the sister people of India, Manmohan Singh, to a virtually empty Sahara Kingsmead Stadium at Ethekweni.

I must in all sincerity thank the South African patriots who came to the Sahara Kingsmead Stadium, the only occasion our government had arranged for Prime Minister Singh to talk directly to the masses of our people, to whom he is intensely attached and to whose welfare he is deeply committed.

In time the full story will be told of what happened that kept our people away from Sahara Kingsmead on October 1. The truth will be told of who those were, who did what they did on the stands of the Stadium to disrupt the prayers said by our religious leaders of all faiths to open our proceedings by requesting God's blessings on the national celebrations of the Centenary of Satyagraha.

I know this as a matter of fact that the excellently prepared Sahara Kingsmead Stadium did not inadvertently find itself serving as a site for the perpetration of acts of national humiliation for the reason that the masses of our people have turned their backs on the noble values of Satyagraha, on the Mahatma and the country of his birth, on friendship and solidarity between India and South Africa, and on their own glorious history of struggle.

Throughout the 94 years of the existence of our movement, some have tried their best to destroy and negate what we stand for, and failed. I know this as a matter of fact as well, that even one hundred years after the birth of Satyagraha, the masses of our people, all true patriots, and genuine members of the ANC will not allow that anybody should destroy or negate the common and noble message of the true liberation and dignity of all our people that Mahatma Gandhi, John Langalibalele Dube and Pixley ka Isaka Seme preached in 1906.

In the 1995 book edited by Fatima Meer, entitled "The South African Gandhi", Judge Lewis Skweyiya of our Constitutional Court described the Mahatma as "A universal man, timeless in impact, as relevant today, as he was yesterday, as he will be tomorrow: a South African of phenomenal magnitude who laid the foundations of the human struggle against colonial and racial oppression."

In the same book Nelson Mandela wrote: "So in the Indian struggle, in a sense, is rooted the African. M.K. Gandhi and John Dube, first President of the African National Congress were neighbours in Inanda, and each influenced the other, for both men established, at about the same time, two monuments

to human development within a stone's throw of each other, the Ohlange Institute and the Phoenix Settlement. Both institutions suffer today the trauma of the violence that has overtaken that region; hopefully, both will rise again, phoenix-like, to lead us to undreamed heights.

"Though separated (from Gandhi) in time, there remains a bond between us, in our shared prison experiences, our defiance of unjust laws and in the fact that violence threatens our aspirations for peace and reconciliation."

Four years before Gandhi was assassinated in 1944, the eminent scientist Albert Einstein said "generations to come, it may be, will scarcely believe that such a one as this even in flesh and blood walked upon this earth." After the Mahatma was assassinated, the outstanding Indian Prime Minister of the day, Jawaharlal Nehru, said:

"The light has gone out of our lives. And there is darkness everywhere. The light has gone out, I said and yet I was wrong. For the light that shone in this country was no ordinary light. The light that has illuminated this country for these many years will illumine this country for many more years and a thousand years later that light will be seen in this country and the world will see it and it will give solace to innumerable hearts."

Nehru, Mandela, Einstein and Skweyiya were speaking of a native son of India who came to our country in 1893 and left 21 years later in 1914. He came to our country as a lawyer and left our shores as a liberator. It is just that Judge Skweyiya should describe him as a South African, because he helped to lay for us the foundations of our struggle against colonial and racial oppression.

It is just that we claim him as our own because it was in our midst that he developed in all respects into the extraordinary light that came properly to be called the Mahatma - one of great soul! - having been given this term of reverence derived from the ancient Sanskrit language, by the outstanding Indian poet, Rabindranath Tagore.

Today we are inspired to read learned discussions about India that appear under such titles as, "China and India Reshape Global Industrial Geography" and "China, India and the World Economy". We draw the necessary lessons from analytical observations such as:

"The success of the Indian software industry is now internationally recognized. Consequently, scholars, policymakers, and industry officials everywhere generally anticipate the increasing competitiveness of India in high technology activities", and that:

"In terms of the absolute level of Gross National Income (GNI) at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) exchange rates in 2003, China, with \$6.4 trillion in GNI, was second largest in the World, second only to the United States at \$11 trillion. India with \$3 trillion in GNI was fourth after the U.S., China and Japan (3.6 trillion) (World Bank, 2005). It is likely that in 2005, India replaced Japan as the country with the third largest GNI."

History has placed our country and people in the privileged position that that we can truly count this emerging global giant, India, as one of our greatest and steadfast friends and strategic partner on our universe, as human society refashions itself within the context of the rapidly changing world defined by a complex process of globalisation.

A few days before he left our country, Mahatma Gandhi wrote an Open Letter to our people, the Indian South Africans, dated July 15, 1914. Addressed to "Dear Brother or Sister", as he concluded his Letter the Mahatma said:

"Though I am leaving for the motherland, I am not likely to forget South Africa. I should like friends who may have occasion to go to India to come and see me there. I do intend, of course, to work in India in regard to the disabilities here. And I shall be able to work better if the people in South Africa ask for my services.

"Above all, I wish to say that it is up to the community to win its freedom and that its ultimate weapon, an irresistible one, is satyagraha. I am, of course, a satyagrahi and I hope always to remain one, but in December last I fell more under the spell of indenture."

The Open Letter was signed: "The community's indentured labourer, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi."

As the possibilities of the day dictated, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi left our country by ship from Cape Town, sailing to India via England, travelling from one British Colony to another British Colony, via the seat of the Imperial Power. Manmohan Singh left our country by air, flying from the O.R. Tambo Johannesburg International Airport directly to New Delhi.

I know that he too, as he left our shores, left us the moving and deeply felt message of the friendship of a humble human being with other human beings, who are tied to him and his people by more than the Indian Ocean, that:

"Though I am leaving for the motherland, I am not likely to forget South Africa. I should like friends who may have occasion to go to India to come and see me there. I do intend, of course, to work in India in regard to the disabilities here.

"I am, of course, a satyagrahi and I hope always to remain one."

We will gladly respond to his invitation to visit him and his people, claiming the liberty to enter India as our second home, because we too, like the Mahatma and him, would have done our best to serve as the community's indentured labourers. We shall come again to India hoping that we can truthfully say that, of course, we too are satyagrahi and hope always to remain so.

Thabo Mbeki

PASSAGE TO INDIA <By invitation - Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka>

India-South Africa: a relationship forged in struggle

The history of South Africa and India has been intertwined for over a century and seems destined to be an even more strategic relationship, not the least because India is increasingly taking its key place in the global economy.

When MK Gandhi came to South Africa as a lawyer, the racist regime turned him into a freedom fighter and when he returned to India he was to be a Mahatma. In 1906 when the decision was taken to engage the South African racist regime through non-violent means, Satyagraha was born.

The initial name for this movement was suggested by Maganlal Gandhi who called it Sadagraha (meaning firmness in a good cause) Gandhi refined it and called it Satyagraha - (Satya - truth implies love, and firmness; agraha -

engenders, therefore, serves as a synonym for force). One hundred years later in September 2006, we had the pleasure to visit a free India representing a free South Africa.

The desire to be free of British colonisation mobilised the Indian people who united in Satyagraha and dealt a fatal blow against British imperialism. In his simplicity, Gandhi captured in many of his teachings, the values that must underpin a society that works in the best interest of most of its people. We visited Gandhi's grave to lay a wreath where we were exposed to some of Gandhi's profound teachings. Amongst the profound teachings of Gandhi was what he called the seven sins, which he said were:

- \* Wealth without work
- \* Pleasure without conscience
- \* Knowledge without character
- \* Business without morality
- \* Science without humanity
- \* Worship without sacrifice
- \* Politics without principle

Our visit to India in 2006 was in this context of a shared 100 years, during which South Africa and India have accumulated a rich history both nations having been liberated and have been leading democracies and global citizens.

India is currently governed by the Congress Party, which has a historic relationship with the African National Congress (ANC) since the times of Gandhi, Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv and now under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with Sonia Gandhi as a leader of the Party. We have sustained very good party-to-party relations. India supported the struggle against apartheid and gave generous support to the ANC.

During a visit to Sonia Gandhi, we had similar concerns on how to build and support people-to-people contacts that will outlive our generation. We also discussed the important role of women and the plight of girl children in our societies. She expressed a strong wish to visit our country soon to renew our strong bonds as political allies and to salute the ANC-led Government. On the day we visited her there were SRC elections at the all-powerful New Delhi University, which were won by the student wing of the Congress Party (CP), to Mrs. Gandhi's great delight. New Delhi is a good barometer for gauging youth political allegiances and the results were therefore reassuring to the CP. As we left her home, the students were approaching Mrs. Gandhi's house to celebrate with her a very special moment, in deed.

We went to India to in a bid to expedite the implementation of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA) and the Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA). Further to that our trip was to:

- \* explore further co-operation on skills development and SMME development
- \* Encourage trade and investment between the two economies in a manner that also taps into established best practices of Indian businesses and business Chambers on matters such as outreach to society and chamber involvement in human capital development.

The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICI), both business Chambers, with an extensive investment in human capital, shared generously on their experience and, of course, between our business delegation and for them it was business as usual. CII explained how they planned to secure the supply of skilled personnel for their labour market as well as position India as a "Skills capital" of the world! The CII in particular argued that India could in

quality and quantity produce skills needed by the future economies of the world. They argued that by 2020 there will be a 50% shortage of priority skills in the English-speaking world and when that happens, India wants to emerge as a global skills supplier of choice. Embedded in that is a warning that the world is fast approaching a skills crisis and only those countries that have prepared themselves and invested in human capital will do well. As everybody will have a shortage, skilled people will become very expensive.

Their emphasis is not only on high-level skills but also the emerging global need for "rusty collar" skills jobs, which is essentially the artisans, a challenge we face in South Africa as well. These discussions have led to a specific plan for collaboration in filling the skills gaps and to use the training that the Indians have used for years. This includes intensive training of artisans who graduate with their practicals, toolbox and a generator.

The visit by the Prime Minister of India to South Africa shortly after our return with a team of CEOs who are part of the SA-India CEO Forum, gave our own Business Unity South Africa (BUSAs) and CII an opportunity to concretise on how to co-operate further. A plan is being elaborated upon. Their discussion included Information Communication Technology (ICT), rural development hubs and general infrastructure, mining and jewelry, liquid fuels and engineering. Trade between Indian and South Africa is at the moment US\$4billion and the President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam has called on us to raise it to US\$12billion by 2010.

In our visit, we also sought to find more opportunities in India to place our young people where they could gain work experience in priority industries for South Africa.

We met those young people already placed through JIPSA in Tata-owned companies in Finance, Engineering, Hospitality and ICT. A total of 25 young women, who are located in different parts of India, shared with us what they were learning there, one young woman Zanele Maisela based in Kerala at one of the Taj Hotels commented about her learning experience on community tourism and how the state of Kerala has promoted health and tourism. She intended to take back her experience to her community and local government. The Indian State of Kerala, I am told by Sonia Gandhi, is a matriarchal society. I am also told that it is a state with the highest literacy levels and best economic prospects. All these because of the fact that it is a society led by women!

Litha Sephula, who is placed with Tata Steel in Jamshedpur, expressed her resolve to return to South Africa and play a meaningful role in transport planning after having learnt from what she was doing there about systems and ways of planning for public transport using advanced engineering based programmes. Another young woman based in Mumbai spoke of the knowledge she had acquired on space utilization in high-density areas. More young men and women are destined to acquire knowledge through this programme not only in India.

One of the special events was our presentation of the Alfred Nzo Lecture in Celebration of Satyagraha. Comrade Nzo is held in high esteem by the Indians. He opened the first ANC office in India in 1967 and went on to forge unshakable relations with the peoples of India. Cde Mendi Msimang was also an ANC representative in India he has also made his mark and is respected by our Indian comrades.

We planted a tree at Gandhi Smirti Museum Park and the event was graced by Springdales Combined School, which is known for being one of the most progressive schools steeped in deep internationalist tradition. This school

educated for free, children of ANC and other African exiles during apartheid and colonialism. Our Ambassador to India, Frances Moloï informed us that often the school and the children followed, and had so much detail about events in South Africa and elsewhere in the world, that they would put to shame some young people in their own countries. The children are looking forward to visiting South Africa and to meet their heroes Madiba and President Thabo Mbeki. They sing our national anthem perfectly. This presents a very interesting opportunity to reflect on the ANC Masupatsela.

The late Oliver Reginald Tambo and our President Thabo Mbeki and are also revered in India. Many comrades we met spoke of how in the many years of the struggle they had marveled at OR's ability to lead a movement that was anchored inside a repressive South Africa as well as all over the world. They counted themselves lucky to have been part of South Africa's liberation.

Comrades Lulu Xingwana and Elizabeth Thabethe spent time looking at second economy challenges and enterprise and cooperative development and how assets in the hands of the poor were being turned into value not only to alleviate but to eradicate poverty especially through agriculture and agro-processing textile board industries and handicrafts. We already have an extensive cooperation with India on building co-operatives. At the moment our colleagues from India are in South Africa doing the "train the trainer" programme as part of second economy and ASGISA work.

The highlight for Cde Thabethe was seeing the Emporium, a retail facility for Small Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) that is state run, which retails for high quality products of SMMEs from all over India and located at strategic shopping areas.

This is an integral part of rural development and is built on the amazing entrepreneurial culture of Indians. While India has one of the most innovative state-led developmental initiatives for poverty alleviation and the Indian Governments have been somewhat socialist oriented; they have also promoted the most aggressive market-led economy. This kind of capitalist/socialist state approach by the state is indeed very interesting. The state of West Bengal has been ruled by the Indian Communist Party since 1967. It has the highest levels of literacy, intensive poverty alleviation activities and strong market and capitalist based economy. All these seem to work for the electorate. This poses an interesting discourse.

Reaching the 21st Century with a much better quality of life for our poorest is a challenge faced by both countries with extreme wealth and extreme poverty, for instance we can and must both collaborate on universal access to ICTs for an example, the "Hole in the wall" concept. This concept we also have in South Africa but have not rolled out en mass. It introduces children to ICT using very basic applications both hardware and software. It is "just a hole in the wall"! There is a need to make use of universal access to ICT and the benefits of technology to leapfrog our people and to ensure that ICT is integral in addressing under-development. India has experimented in the public sector, communities and of course business with very good results. Our visit to Bangalore to look at ICT training exposed us to very practical training in, especially, the mainframe an area in which we are struggling in South Africa - that we intend to follow up.

#### LESSONS FROM THE TRIP

\* The ANC and the Congress Party have a rich and unique history which must be valued and built on for next generations. And we must strive to entrench people to people contacts.

\* Our business needs to take a leaf from the tradition in India that of a business anchored in solving community problems and direct plough back. Tata

Motors in its assembling plant assists local women to manufacture some parts that the company procures from them. There are countless examples of business linkages to communities and SMMEs in India.

\* The importance of education that is responsive demand-led and comprehensive to the state and all other stakeholders can learn a lot.

\* Alliance on Global matters.

\* We can learn a lot on improving the assets in the hands of the poor, SMMEs and rural people.

\* Gandhi as a proponent of Indian economic self-reliance led by example and only wore 'proudly India' clothing. As we ponder our textile and clothing agreement with China and its pros and cons, we cannot forget that it is just another site of struggle to make it work. Indeed, Proudly South African work is not a walk in park.

\*\* Phumzile Mlambo-Ncguka is a Member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC and Deputy President of South Africa.

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