

225 Sherbourne Road
Syracuse, NY 13224
June 3, 1994

Cde. Phyllis Naidoo
P.O. Box 515
Gatesville 7764
Cape Town
South Africa

Dear Phyllis,

Yours of May 10, 1994, really did leave me asking the commonplace question, reflecting angry helplessness: Why Phyllis, of all people? Why? You, honestly, have had more than your share of struggles and griefs. But knowing you, I should not be taking this line because you are likely to be angry with me for moping around!! So, let me ask: How is Sha now? Is the liver holding? Your little comment about the surgeon's response to the sight of the ANC flag above Sha's hospital bed made me laugh! You should have told him that the "Nat" liver will hold because it is part of a human body and not its beast manifestation that apartheid has socialized and contracted out of its proponents!

And you, Phyllis, how are you? How is your health and how is the rest of the family? The one question that I do not have for you is how you are dealing with old age! Your letters bring our all the dignity, strength, optimism and incredible wit that will make your life a part of those who know you, for all times.

Congratulations on the event of independence! It was a wonderful, historical experience for even ourselves at this distance! We celebrated and commemorated the elections outcome at an event that some of us organized here at Syracuse University. But we also reminded ourselves that other victories, re: independence struggles, have been celebrated on the continent before and that there are sad, hard lessons that have emerged concerning the real meaning of independence, especially in so far as this touches the majority of people. So, the struggle continues, in an even more heightened manner!

Phyllis, my sanctions against South Africa are now over and I will be coming at the end of September for and AWORD Conference. You see, I have been turning down invitations to come during the last few years, even after people who were supporters of the boycott started coming down. Ama Ata Aidoo and I had quite a heated debate three years ago when she was considering attending a conference that both of us had been invited to. Anyhow, it will be wonderful stepping on the soil of "flag independent" South Africa. I will make sure that I find you, or at least speak to you on telephone.

Mumbi and Njeri are fine and send their love.

Take good care of yourself.

Lots of love and please excuse the rushed tone of this letter. A mountain of work is sitting on me.

Sincerely,
Micere