

Thoko, Suks, Kat, Carol/Bud, Mariane, Frank/Gwen

Glenariff # 4,
96 Umbilo Road,
Durban, 4001,
South Africa,
Monday, 28th March, 1994.

Hullo all of you,

Bud and Carol your call at 7am SA time (9pm Sunday 27 in LA) was most welcome albeit my having woken up a minute before and having drawn the curtains to let in the light to welcome a new indecisive day, not having made up its mind whether it will rain. But Maputo seems to have felt the effects of the cyclone near Madagascar. A plane of 5 SAn businessman came acropper and we lost all of them and so added to the deaths from violence around us in Durban. Reading the paper I noticed the headline in the Natal Mercury - Attorney killed, car set alight in township violence. Heck, it must be somebody I know. I did not want to read and went to the loo. But returned to find it was Mafika Mbuli, my friend.

Yes my waking hours have changed with the drudgery of being ill. Poor Suks made me some muti (AROMATHERAPY) and while it has healed my lips, my guts are so sore. See how badly my drug problem is. Wish I could throw my fags + damn.

Thank you for your call Carol and Bud. You are my precious friends and I thank you for this wonderful gift of love. I thought of you last week when you had another earthquake. You should have your 'eyes' in a container on your person when you make for the door. Do you? Please take care - Mid-May cannot come too fast for me when you return to Harare. Mind you it will be post our elections (if not postphoned) and goodness knows what the racists have planned for us.

Mariane told me in a recent letter that my friend Arthur has passed on. I met him in Kent in 1982 visiting Marianne and Mike. He had a rather large allotment and having survived a heart operation grew vegetables and flowers. He had a garden that would be the envy of our born again environmentalists. Go well Arthur.

Our press highlighted the execution of the 3 white men, and played down their random killing earlier. We must always be seen to be godless barbarians. The execution was horrible but to highlight that only is not the whole picture. The killing of Steve Biko Marianne cannot be avenged. For implicit in that statement is a satisfaction of a righted wrong. Steve's Mum was on TV last night, and no police deaths can remove the hurt from her bosom 17 years later. How can it? I think this is a fiction that gives rise to those who maintain the death penalty. I am sure you are not in that number. If it were in my power to smash the head of Sahdhan's murderer do you think I would avenge his death. Would the pain be easier? Today Mafika's family has to cope with his death - must they go out to avenge his death - and will they? I know for myself this cannot be - revenge/avenge - do we?

Congrats on your piano lessons and how was the performance on the 26th .

The Democratic party has just asked for the elections to be postponed - on the day Oppenheimer joins the party ? Is that co-incidental ? No those in power(Political/Economic) do not want democracy. But we shall get there - no matter.

On Friday the last test between Australia and SA started. I had your Easter card too Frank and Gwen - Thank you - A happy Easter holiday to all of you. Also, on Friday the ANC called a march on the City Hall to tell that Natalians who wanted the election to say so. The March was a success - over 100,000 people said so. What a hype there was - white schools asked parents to remove their children at 10am. The Durban City Council asked shops to close, the newspapers screamed CITY BRACED FOR ANC'S POLE MARCH/ GREATER SADF PRESENCE FOR NATAL. Despite all this the cricket fraternity wondered why a disappointing 4950 spectators attended ? Thats our SA.

On Saturday with one picture of the March the papers said KING CHALLENGED and the crowds to cricket improved.

12.00 pm today and the radio brings on the spot reports from the JHB ZULU march - the death toll is over 10 - IFF Tillet is saying WE ARE NON-VIOLENT, THIS MARCH HAS BEEN SABOTAGED.

On the 2/2/90 de Klerk said with the demise of the USSR, Communism was no longer a threat and hence he lifted the bann on the SACP. Well last week PIK BOTHA resurrected the bogey and now he wants us to say how many Communists we have on the ANC list. Against this on TV we have people asking the ANC similar questions. We answer simply that Communists did not impose racism and apartheid. We were the victims. But the media has taken up the red scare with a vengeance. This is dirty business. So thats our scene - whats yours.

Thoko and Pat thank you for your letters. Maybe you will see me in Harare soon. I am planning to get all my research on Computer and then get to Harare to write up my story on Chris. Suks has agreed to help me. My neck and shoulders are behaving very badly. My neck is kept up by this band and that decreases the headache. My nightmare are doctors and medicine. I dont want to see any. But I am not rushing. I am going to work when I can - so this could take longer than planned.

If I come then I shall see Tomas, Sehlu, Vukani, Leam and Amy. 12.30pm the news says that the ANC HQ is threatened. A number are dead. When will it end ?

I love you all. Please take care.

Phyllis.