

July 11, 1981

Dear Phyllis,

Hello! It has been such a long time since I've seen you--but I've thought of you so often. I have been home for nearly a month now. It seems incredible. Months seemed so long and filled while I was in Africa, but here, I just don't know where they go to.

I stayed in South Africa through the end of May--when things were really heating up. I spent an incredible few weeks down in the Eastern Cape--and met Chris' friend in MACWUSA. (He seems to go to Lesotho rather frequently, so I wonder if you know him too. He was picked up last month--along with so many of the people I met and talked with.) The people in MACWUSA took me to a huge trade union rally in New Brighton in early May. There must have been 5,000 people there. The speeches were extremely militant, obviously SACTU/ANC, and went on for 5 hours. And, of course the freedom songs. I'd never experienced anything like it.

I suppose that is where the Special Branch finally picked up on me. At any rate, they stopped me in the P.E. airport, surrounded the house where I was staying in King Williamstown. They kept a 24-hour watch, which effectively prevented me from going into the Ciskei. (They went to people's homes in the townships, asking if I had been there. I suppose if they had picked me up in the "black areas," I would have been deported. My visa was about to expire, too--only I learned that later!)

While I was in P.E. I also got a rather strange phone call from someone who said his name was "Peter Allen." He said he was a law lecturer at Wits and involved in a student organization called "Phoenix." He told the person that answered the phone that he had gotten my name from "Phyllis Naidoo." I didn't know if that was true or not, but I did know that he shouldn't have said it on the phone--which was tapped. Then, he asked me "friendly" but odd questions--When was I leaving P.E.; where was I going next; when I was I returning to Joburg; where would I be staying (Not just the phone number--he wanted to know whose house it was!); when would I be leaving the country. So, I thought, either this guy is police, or he is awfully dumb. When the police did start to call me in King Williamstown, I decided not to get in touch with Allen when I got back to Joburg. So I guess I'll never know--unless you do know anything about him.

Phyllis, I am in the process of writing my many, many articles now. One thing the editor wants is some profiles of various people who are involved in the struggle. I don't know how many I will finally do, but I am wondering if I could do one of you? If you wouldn't mind, then I would need to know some more specific things. If you could jot down a few notes about how you came to be involved in the struggle, some events during those times that are particularly striking, your correspondence with people on Robben Island, your work as a lawyer, the circumstances surrounding your leaving the country, your work with refugees now, the ANC, the work of women in the struggle, etc. Anything you think would be important for an American audience to know. The magazine goes to very average American people who probably don't know much about South Africa. So, along with analysis, we are trying to present the struggle in very personal terms. Please let me know if you will or won't want

to do this. I'm hoping to do one with Helen Joseph. I did talk with her after I left you last spring. What a beautiful woman!!

Phyllis, I hope that you and Sukhthi are well. I think of both of you often. I want to come back soon!

Love,
Betsy

Additional message area

See the U.S.A. - vacationland of the world!

© USPS 1980



Second fold

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIR MAIL • PAR AVION

P.S. - Do you have a picture of yourself??

Tour
The
United
States



Chief Legal Counsel
P.O. Box 402
Museum 100, LESOTHO

30c
USA

378 Pacific St.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217
USA#

