





coming through to tell us he couldn't get to sleep, and asking could he help. We sent him back to bed, but he was very unsettled.

"On the Wednesday morning he went as usual to work at the College of Advanced Education where he was a lecturer and at lunchtime joined the College team in a 'Life Be In It' Fun Run. As he ran he told a co-runner that he must have taken the first lap too fast and would slow down. At that, he fell to the ground dead. The autopsy finding was that he had had a heart attack and suffocated on his own vomit (although worded more formally than that). That was on the 18th September. Noone who knew Jim could believe that he had ever had any heart trouble. My immediate reaction was to wonder about the fact that he had been in NY until two days before, but I thought 'What do I say to the police? -- "Perhaps he's been murdered" -- They'd think I was mad with grief or something, and what good would it do? He's dead.' I knew they wouldn't take me seriously, and so I said nothing. When I rang overseas offices to notify people of his death, several of them asked was I sure it was a heart attack. I replied that that was the finding of the autopsy.

"Then, a few years later, I read of the mysterious illness which you had suffered whilst visiting the USA, and all the symptoms which were described in the article fitted what Jim had described to me as the strange things which had happened to him and how he felt. It seemed to me then that there was perhaps more than coincidence involved, but there still seemed not enough to raise the issue. Now we have reports in our papers of a judicial inquiry being held into a group called the Civil Cooperation Bureau, including the following: 'Another plan hatched by the bureau was said to have involved "tampering" with the luggage of the Rev. Frank Chikane, gen.sect. of SACC, an anti-apartheid umbrella group. The extent of the reported tampering was not specified.'

"Well, perhaps Jim did have a heart attack and just literally ran himself into the ground -- but I would appreciate it if you could keep his case in mind and, if appropriate, make any inquiries which might later become possible. With best wishes, Irene Gale."

Later, of course, the CCB said words to the effect of, 'Yes, we sprayed Chikane's luggage with a poison which was intended to kill him' (he had become separated from his luggage for a time and recovered, and then on being reunited with his luggage he became ill again, and someone made the connection, tests were carried out and the poison detected). Rev. Tutu replied to the above letter, saying he took my suggestions seriously and would keep them in mind. But, so far as I know, nothing was ever mentioned about it in the official inquiry into the CCB, or since.

I would appreciate it very much if you could look into this matter as part of your present inquiries.

I was very honoured to meet you at Parliament House in Canberra and to attend your welcoming ceremonies in Sydney and Melbourne. The final achievement of the overthrow of apartheid and the present building of a truly democratic, non-racist, non-sexist society in South Africa is wonderful to see, and we in Australia are pleased to have been able to play a small part in these marvellous events. We continue to do what we can to support the new South Africa. Next week we will welcome the members of the Chris Hani Memorial Tour (Charles Nqakula, John Gomomo and Thenjiwe Mthintso) to Adelaide and we look forward to hearing them. We hope that our efforts to make their visit as effective as possible will bear fruit in the future.

I wish you, and South Africa, well for the future. There is still far to go, but the people of South Africa have long shown themselves to be willing to struggle with dedication for the good of all.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

*Irene Gale*

Irene Gale A.M.

*Dear Phyllis - I have written recently (96) to the Truth + Reconciliation Commission to Tutu + Michael Lapsley (both of whom I have met) asking that they look into this matter if possible. My daughter Jenny points out that I don't say clearly in this that I think it quite likely that Jim was also murdered. Are you able to do anything, if you are involved in the TRC? I would like to know the truth, that's all. - Irene*