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Saturday 26th April, 1997

My dear Ray,

Just had your letter of the 18th April, 1997, for which many thanks.

April is an awful month for me. Sahdhan would have been 36 years old on the 4th April while the 15th was the 8th anniversary of his assassination. Yes the joy of his birth and the horror of his death are all in April.

Derek Hanekom said that Sahdhan had been dead so long that I should have forgotten him. Well its hard to know unless you experience not death of a family member, but the death of your child. If you have not had that experience, you do know this endless pain. Thirty years ago so close to this my present home these boys were the centre of my life. MD went to jail leaving me the boys and Suks 4 days old. They were so much joy. Who would have thought that they would be no more in 30 years. What a trick life has played on me.

Today I have had my pension. I am so rich its unbelievable but I dont have my children to share it with. When they looked for meat in their stew - I can now buy meat in kilos and they are not here.

Yes I wonder what could be done for Dora - Isnt there a school for the deaf in Cape Town. I recall children from Durban going to Cape deaf schools. We have something here. I must enquire.

Willie Leslie was in Cape Town (In exile in Lesotho) and I asked him to phone you. He did but you were out last weekend or out when he called. Your previous letter said you werent well. How are you now ?

Your lovely photograph was in the magazine Sunday life - I think it was the Jews in the Struggle - thats not the heading but close to it. Advocate Phillip Meskin, now a JUDGE asked me that very question in 1966. I started to enumerate them and he was so shocked. He was married to a Catholic and he thought that was revolutionary enough.

I hope Tanya's son is better. Poor Tanya and Jacques have endless problems. But she is a wonderful daughter and you are lucky in her.

Do the comrades still take you shopping on a Friday.

Now that I have the pension I want to go to Cuba. Probably next year. I now have blood pressure and Sugar diabetes and once I am used to living with these problems I shall venture out.

You will recall that some 16 friends in the USA decided that I should spend a holiday in the USA and they were going to fund the whole trip. I am not keen on going to the USA even though I have these wonderful friends there.

What I am thinking of is asking them to give that money to the Cuban relief. I have to think about this - I dont want to hurt my friends but mostly I dont want to hurt myself.

Love you

Phyllis