

27th March, 1968.

The Hon. Minister for Home Affairs,
GABORONES,
BOTSWANA.

Dear Sir,

re: DEPORTATION - MR. JERRY MBULI.

We confirm the cable this day sent to you reading as follows:-

"DEEPLY DISTURBED AT REPORTS OF INTENDED DEPORTATION OF JERRY MBULI FOLLOWING A LONG LIST OF ANC MEMBERS DEPORTED TO SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC STOP POLICY CAUSING GRAVE CONCERN STOP EARNESTLY APPEAL FOR YOUR INTERVENTION STOP LETTER FOLLOWING."

We assume that the immediate grounds for the deportation of Mr. Mbuli would be his recent conviction for an offence against Botswana Liquor Laws. But it is a fact that long before he had committed any liquor offence, Mr. Mbuli was the object of intense surveillance by the State Police arising, we believe, out of his association with the ANC members now serving jail sentences in Botswana and his occasional communications with us on matters relating to the welfare of our imprisoned brothers. In the course of this surveillance Mr. Mbuli's place of residence was more than once raided by the State Police and at one time it was kept under observation for 24 hours a day.

We have been observing, with grave concern, the increasing list of ANC members who, over a short period of time, have been deported to South Africa on grounds which we have found it extremely difficult to understand.

We naturally concede and acknowledge the right of the Government of Botswana to deport any, and even all, ANC members from its territory; but we very strongly feel that to send them to South Africa is more than merely getting rid of them.

It is our earnest and humble plea that the deportee should be offered the choice and the opportunity of seeking political asylum in an African Independent State or other country overseas. We wish to make this appeal in the present instance if, as we are informed, it has now been decided to deport Mr. Jerry Mbuli.

Yours faithfully,

D. Nokwe.
Secretary-General.