

DRAFT LETTER TO THE POPE

1982

His Holiness Pope ^{John} Paul II,

His
Your Holiness

It is with a deep sense of honour and respect that we in-form you that on 8th January 1982, our Organisation, the African National Congress (ANC), and the oppressed people of our country including ^{Millions} ~~hundreds~~ of Catholics and the forces of peace and freedom all over the world, will be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the foundation of our Organisation.

~~His~~ Holiness unflinching support of the cause of the poor and oppressed in our country is a source of courage and inspiration. ~~Peace-loving people all over the world have been inspired by your memorable visits to some of the poorest areas of the developing world in support of the needy.~~

It gives us particular pride that among the Founding Fathers of our Organisation are to be found ~~such~~ devoted Christians such as Rev. John Dube, first President of the ANC, Minister of the Congregational Church; S. M. Makgatho, second President of the ANC, Methodist and lay preacher and Rev. Z. R. Mahobane, third President of the ANC, and Minister of the Methodist Church.

During the whole of 1982 we will be paying tribute to our Founding Fathers, to those who ~~have~~ followed in their footsteps and have held high the banner of our movement, and to those who continue to do so despite the terror unleashed by the racist regime. We will be marking this auspicious occasion by mounting various activities. ~~and~~ in our Country, abroad

Devoted believers of ~~different denominations~~ in our country today are increasingly identifying with the cause of the poor and the powerless and are challenging the racist regime and its machinery of terror. They are victims of torture, harrasment and true Christians such as ^{Archbishop Denis Hurley} ~~Bishop Desmond Tutu~~ major targets. ~~But they are more determined to fight together with other patriots of our country for a non-racial and democratic South Africa.~~

Our people suffer untold oppression and the massive violations of their human rights. Millions are uprooted from their homes and dumped in those reservations of misery wrongly referred to as "homelands".

They live in poverty in the land of ~~the~~ plenty and are made foreigners in their own country of birth. But we are more determined to liberate ourselves and our country.

We most ~~sincerely~~ wish to invite ^{it is} your Holiness and through you Catholics all over the world to join our people in the celebrations of our 70th Anniversary and to render us humanitarian assistance to enable us to most fittingly celebrate the occasion.

Signed.....