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27 February 1990

The President
African National Congress
Headquarters, Lusaka

Dear Comrade President

We are excited at the thought of going home on Friday 2nd March, and meeting family and friends. The University of Cape Town has kindly offered accommodation and working space in the Centre for African Studies where Jack taught from 1937 until John Vorster ordered his expulsion in 1964-5. We shall be returning to our grass roots in more ways than one. This marks for us a singular triumph of the stand taken by Congress and the CP over the forces of evil since the beginning of the century.

At the same time, we are sad at the thought of not being able to say farewell in person to you and Adelaide. Please pass on to her our warmest regards and appreciation for her goodwill and support.

We would not have gone home without the full consent and approval of the NEC, which we received on the 16th of this month. Since then we have been busy with packing and sorting of documents, as well as attending meetings held to discuss a general return of members to homes in South Africa.

We joined the great crowd of people that gathered at the airport this morning to welcome Nelson. President Kaunda, in his welcome speech, referred to the only shadow hanging over the proceedings, and that was your unavoidable absence from an historical and joyous event. This was our sentiment exactly and we think that of all members of the movement.

We are going to Cape Town for two months, returning on 30 April to dispose of our house and transfer books, papers and other belongings to our new home by road. It's our fervent hope that you and Adelaide will be back by then to take charge of the preparations for the National Conference on 16th December.

Maatla! Mayibuye !

Ray and Jack Simons